



FFY 2005/2006 Children and Family Services (October 1, 2004-September 30, 2006)

Statistical Bulletin



Child Abuse and Neglect, Foster Care, and Adoption
John Hoeven-Governor/Carol K. Olson-Executive Director

FFY 2005/2006 Children and Family Services Statistical Bulletin

(October 1, 2004-September 30, 2006)

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January 2008

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Child Abuse and Neglect

Introduction

The North Dakota Child Protection Services Program is state supervised and county administered with the purpose of:

- ☐ Protecting the health and welfare of children by encouraging the reporting of children who are known to be, or suspected of, being abused or neglected;
- ☐ Providing adequate services for the protection and treatment of abused and neglected children and to protect them from further harm;
- ☐ Identifying the causes of children's deaths, where possible; and
- ☐ Identifying those circumstances that contribute to children's deaths, and recommending changes in policy, practices, and law to prevent children's deaths.

This section focuses on children who were reported victims of child abuse and neglect during FFYs 2005 and 2006. Anyone can report suspicions of abuse or neglect by submitting a verbal or written report, referred to as a "960", to their county social service office. When the county social service office receives a report of suspected child abuse or neglect the following occurs:

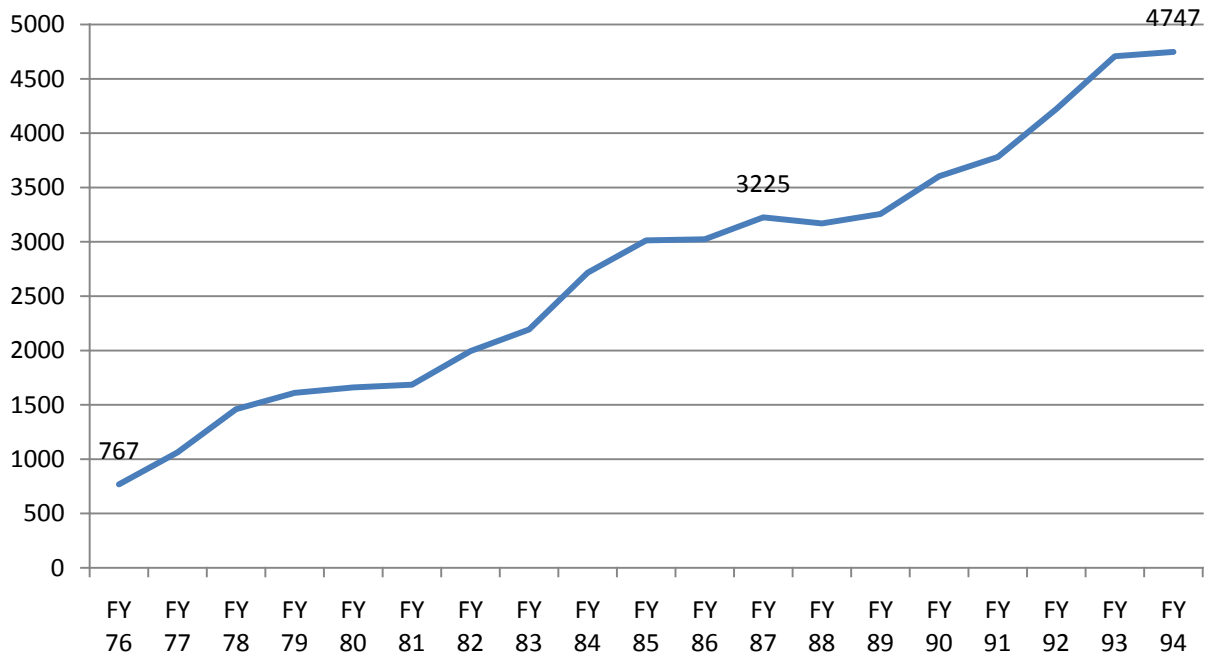
- ☐ Analysis of the information in the report to determine what actions to take for an assessment;
- ☐ Assessment of the concerns in the report to find the facts;
- ☐ Decision about whether services are required for the protection and treatment of an abused or neglected child;
- ☐ Referral to juvenile court for review if services are determined to be required; and
- ☐ Provision of protective services to the family such as parenting education, counseling, supporting services, and foster care.

The following sections include the number of completed full and administrative assessments, the reporting source, family stress factors, services provided to families, type of maltreatment, and victim and subject demographics.

Full Assessment Trends

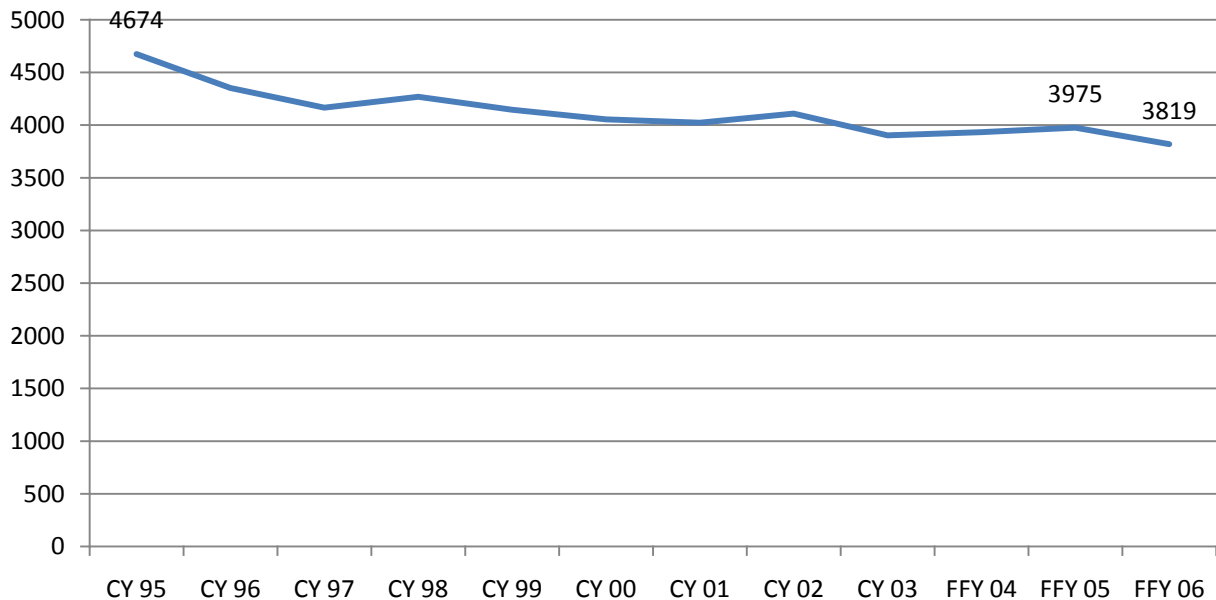
A full assessment is a fact finding process designed to provide information that enables a determination to be made that services are required to provide for the protection and treatment of an abused or neglected child. From 1976 (N=767) to 1987 (N=3,225), full assessments increased annually in number. There was a slight plateau in the mid-1980s with gradual increases until the numbers peaked at 4,747 in 1994 (Figure 1). There has been a steady decline since 1994. There were 3,975 full assessments completed in 2005 and 3,819 in 2006 (Figure 2).

Figure 1. Number of Child Abuse & Neglect Full Assessments, FY 1976-1994



AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect. Note: The state fiscal year (FY) runs from July through June.

Figure 2. Number of Child Abuse & Neglect Full Assessments, CY 1995-2003 and FFY 2004-2006



AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect. Note: The calendar year (CY) runs from January through December. The federal fiscal year (FFY) runs from October through September.

Full Assessment Reports by Region

Table 1 indicates the number of full assessments by county, designated by region. The full assessments for each region are depicted on two timelines depending on the year; 1976-1991 and 1992-2006. This timeline is beneficial for administrators not only to assess county numbers and manage trend data, but also evaluate side-by-side comparisons with other counties of similar size.

Table 1. North Dakota Child Abuse & Neglect Full Assessment Reports: FFY1976 – 1991; and FFY 1992-1994 & CY 1995-2006

Region I																
Year	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
Divide	3	19	3	14	6	9	17	11	10	15	13	6	9	11	12	12
McKenzie	4	5	13	17	13	22	18	26	13	20	26	23	26	25	9	16
Williams	25	31	42	60	74	67	141	135	197	211	168	174	142	178	149	173
TOTAL	32	55	58	91	93	98	176	172	220	246	207	203	177	214	170	201
Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	
Divide	12	9	13	10	9	8	12	12	8	5	14	8	6	8	9	
McKenzie	25	29	15	21	24	16	30	21	17	12	15	15	14	16	28	
Williams	218	257	226	182	157	121	132	127	135	155	173	175	140	136	135	
TOTAL	255	295	254	213	190	145	174	160	160	172	202	198	160	160	172	
Region II																
Year	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
Bottineau	4	14	7	5	13	10	15	24	38	47	29	25	31	24	23	20
Burke	3	3	5	3	2	3	4	7	15	9	4	9	4	20	11	9
McHenry	17	9	22	13	12	16	11	18	26	18	27	25	34	19	21	36
Mountrail	6	8	4	4	15	8	24	37	36	26	33	48	11	25	22	28
Pierce	9	11	5	10	5	8	11	16	10	26	23	21	16	18	17	14
Renville	6	3	2	3	2	4	4	5	3	10	7	5	3	7	2	6
Ward	137	215	227	209	275	269	308	315	362	352	384	455	415	500	517	551
TOTAL	182	263	272	247	324	318	377	422	490	488	507	588	514	613	613	664
Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	
Bottineau	20	25	24	32	34	30	36	19	30	29	22	23	16	17	22	
Burke	11	16	4	12	3	8	7	9	4	9	5	6	10	12	6	
McHenry	38	29	29	37	32	42	26	27	21	17	27	25	23	24	17	
Mountrail	18	28	24	14	11	24	21	21	9	17	27	21	14	23	23	
Pierce	22	12	17	21	12	18	14	16	17	16	16	16	14	14	19	
Renville	4	10	6	16	6	5	5	6	5	2	3	10	4	8	8	
Ward	614	624	552	530	494	523	552	554	506	522	527	528	602	558	476	
TOTAL	727	744	656	662	592	650	661	652	592	612	627	629	683	656	571	

-continued-

Table 1. (continued)

Region III																
Year	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
Benson	5	7	7	9	7	12	16	18	32	34	30	23	38	17	6	13
Cavalier	5	10	27	14	6	12	5	13	12	12	14	19	8	14	22	18
Eddy	3	4	4	3	11	5	2	6	7	4	3	4	11	5	12	11
Ramsey	9	12	25	38	32	46	42	48	74	94	69	71	83	104	103	111
Rollette	39	30	95	40	78	63	51	73	74	83	112	94	90	60	45	41
Towner	0	0	3	2	1	0	0	3	12	16	10	15	18	17	10	14
TOTAL	61	63	161	106	135	138	116	161	211	243	238	226	248	217	198	208
Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	
Benson	19	19	13	22	6	13	22	10	8	11	9	14	10	8	9	
Cavalier	20	21	18	22	28	16	13	8	12	13	11	4	10	11	13	
Eddy	7	16	12	11	9	20	11	4	6	4	5	5	3	8	6	
Ramsey	119	149	126	148	113	103	111	106	98	90	107	115	119	97	91	
Rollette	48	41	40	56	61	56	44	51	48	39	55	42	53	62	49	
Towner	17	19	15	13	20	18	23	14	8	10	13	15	15	13	12	
TOTAL	230	265	224	272	237	226	224	193	180	167	200	195	210	199	180	
Region IV																
Year	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
Grand Forks	103	174	224	244	194	193	185	208	228	285	273	304	356	385	467	513
Nelson	5	3	8	6	5	5	4	3	8	9	19	14	12	12	19	20
Pembina	8	13	14	18	27	36	46	22	41	57	42	38	50	46	75	49
Walsh	20	18	27	43	35	22	32	37	60	54	46	45	51	71	99	106
TOTAL	136	208	273	311	261	256	267	270	337	405	380	401	469	514	660	688
Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	
Grand Forks	564	617	693	644	636	594	667	594	609	571	589	530	513	513	478	
Nelson	32	29	29	16	10	20	22	26	20	16	19	18	9	11	8	
Pembina	67	76	57	61	51	57	45	46	42	41	46	38	50	37	25	
Walsh	133	125	125	107	116	138	100	77	104	107	92	91	84	82	62	
TOTAL	796	847	904	828	813	809	834	743	775	735	746	677	656	643	573	

-continued-

Table 1. (continued)

Region V																
Year	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
Cass	70	127	212	254	200	193	172	293	360	388	442	547	625	604	693	774
Ransom	10	9	12	15	11	12	6	11	16	20	6	11	15	17	21	29
Richland	10	16	27	29	40	62	76	56	57	56	80	97	70	56	73	104
Sargent	3	4	5	3	13	9	8	14	9	11	15	26	27	16	12	15
Steele	0	1	1	3	1	2	3	4	0	9	4	5	3	0	0	1
Traill	7	3	6	12	9	12	8	9	16	30	41	43	33	25	31	44
TOTAL	100	160	263	316	274	290	273	387	458	514	588	729	773	718	830	967
Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	
Cass	800	909	1138	1113	1012	946	978	1030	1064	991	981	914	953	1017	1044	
Ransom	20	30	27	18	42	19	8	9	11	23	16	12	12	18	13	
Richland	115	115	88	124	129	115	128	99	73	94	104	71	52	80	89	
Sargent	17	13	16	19	16	16	12	19	14	10	16	13	11	7	11	
Steele	4	0	4	9	11	6	5	12	9	6	3	2	4	3	2	
Traill	38	45	55	55	45	41	39	36	24	40	44	26	16	17	21	
TOTAL	994	1112	1328	1338	1255	1143	1170	1205	1195	1164	1164	1038	1048	1142	1180	
Region VI																
Year	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
Barnes	6	14	13	16	16	11	30	20	34	44	48	41	44	31	36	38
Dickey	10	14	17	10	21	19	21	28	13	28	14	10	25	21	19	17
Foster	3	9	8	14	11	3	8	5	8	13	7	10	6	9	11	11
Griggs	1	3	2	1	0	4	5	10	9	6	7	11	7	14	15	6
LaMoure	5	4	9	13	9	17	5	10	10	7	10	13	11	8	10	14
Logan	4	2	1	2	3	3	3	3	4	1	3	2	0	2	1	2
McIntosh	2	1	2	5	1	0	6	2	2	5	4	6	9	1	3	7
Stutsman	35	65	81	98	110	110	110	94	129	115	115	121	114	121	132	105
Wells	2	9	8	17	8	16	7	17	21	9	15	18	13	17	12	4
TOTAL	68	121	141	176	179	183	195	189	230	228	223	232	229	224	239	204
Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	
Barnes	47	46	54	55	55	54	53	66	52	54	57	50	50	32	46	
Dickey	19	31	22	29	26	24	24	18	15	16	13	12	16	18	29	
Foster	7	11	14	14	15	15	17	8	6	13	11	11	11	11	6	
Griggs	9	10	12	10	14	12	12	12	6	7	7	13	4	1	4	
LaMoure	10	18	15	10	13	6	10	11	8	12	19	13	8	13	14	
Logan	2	3	2	3	2	4	3	1	0	0	3	1	1	1	0	
McIntosh	9	14	12	15	5	7	5	1	8	4	9	14	12	5	8	
Stutsman	116	136	113	136	109	102	106	114	101	118	103	96	123	104	97	
Wells	9	9	12	15	14	15	18	9	10	10	14	11	20	22	11	
TOTAL	228	278	256	287	253	239	248	240	206	234	236	221	245	207	215	

Table 1. (continued)

Region VII																
Year	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
Burleigh	86	91	116	131	138	161	222	230	295	392	406	384	326	328	405	407
Emmons	5	2	11	8	9	5	11	10	12	12	8	14	15	12	13	11
Grant	2	1	3	3	1	2	7	12	6	5	6	1	15	10	11	4
Kidder	3	6	14	10	6	3	4	7	9	12	9	5	6	7	10	5
McLean	9	8	19	18	27	31	49	49	69	50	56	70	38	60	35	35
Mercer	4	7	8	27	31	44	53	62	97	93	78	63	39	36	44	25
Morton	35	30	47	58	58	70	112	92	110	143	124	120	122	127	116	134
Oliver	2	1	1	3	1	2	11	7	6	0	5	2	4	4	7	7
Sheridan	1	0	3	6	5	2	0	6	4	8	8	2	7	2	3	4
Sioux	2	1	4	7	4	4	3	1	4	8	7	7	3	1	1	0
TOTAL	149	147	226	271	280	324	472	476	612	723	707	668	575	587	645	632
Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	
Burleigh	478	525	556	508	471	426	438	455	467	410	433	450	477	503	460	
Emmons	8	19	9	13	9	12	8	14	5	5	1	4	13	6	4	
Grant	7	6	2	9	7	8	6	7	5	4	7	12	6	5	4	
Kidder	7	10	11	17	11	9	19	9	11	15	12	10	10	6	12	
McLean	35	37	37	37	30	26	17	24	23	21	27	15	16	20	12	
Mercer	23	22	29	34	32	20	22	23	23	20	26	20	19	13	13	
Morton	184	200	219	192	172	180	214	196	198	223	191	192	181	171	172	
Oliver	6	8	10	5	4	12	10	8	3	5	7	4	4	4	0	
Sheridan	4	5	9	4	4	4	5	4	3	4	3	1	4	2	6	
Sioux	0	3	5	3	0	2	2	1	0	1	2	5	8	1	2	
TOTAL	752	835	887	822	740	699	741	741	738	708	709	713	738	731	685	

-continued-

Table 1. (continued)

Region VIII																
Year	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91
Adams	3	0	5	9	5	2	6	3	10	7	9	7	10	4	11	11
Billings	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	1	4	8	4
Billings/Golden Valley*	2	2	5	8	12	4	7	10	17	1	6	--	--	--	--	--
Bowman	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	15	11	8	9	18
Bowman/Slope*	0	6	7	9	1	55	9	7	13	16	19	--	--	--	--	--
Golden Valley	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14	5	4	3	5
Hettinger	1	4	5	2	5	7	3	2	0	2	5	8	8	5	3	3
Slope	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	2	3	0	4
Stark	25	26	37	43	83	57	81	88	100	122	120	124	137	126	177	155
TOTAL	31	38	59	71	106	125	106	110	140	148	159	168	174	166	211	200

*These counties were combined through June 1986. They were reported separately beginning in July 1986

Year	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	00	01	02	03	04	05	06
Adams	12	13	9	11	7	10	8	9	4	12	12	9	10	9	8
Billings	7	8	3	4	6	2	2	2	1	1	2	5	4	3	2
Bowman	26	28	5	12	14	11	11	5	2	1	7	3	17	13	11
Dunn	16	20	10	15	16	9	13	18	10	10	11	15	13	6	15
Golden Valley	4	7	7	6	8	15	4	7	5	8	11	6	10	9	12
Hettinger	12	14	8	9	10	8	8	4	7	5	4	1	8	10	10
Slope	3	0	1	6	1	0	2	3	0	1	1	0	3	3	2
Stark	159	241	195	201	210	199	169	163	179	193	177	193	157	184	183
TOTAL	239	331	238	264	272	254	217	211	208	231	225	232	222	237	243

AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect.

Full and Administrative Assessments

While the number of full assessment reports gradually decreased from 2005 to 2006, the number of administrative assessments reports increased during the same time period (Figure 3).

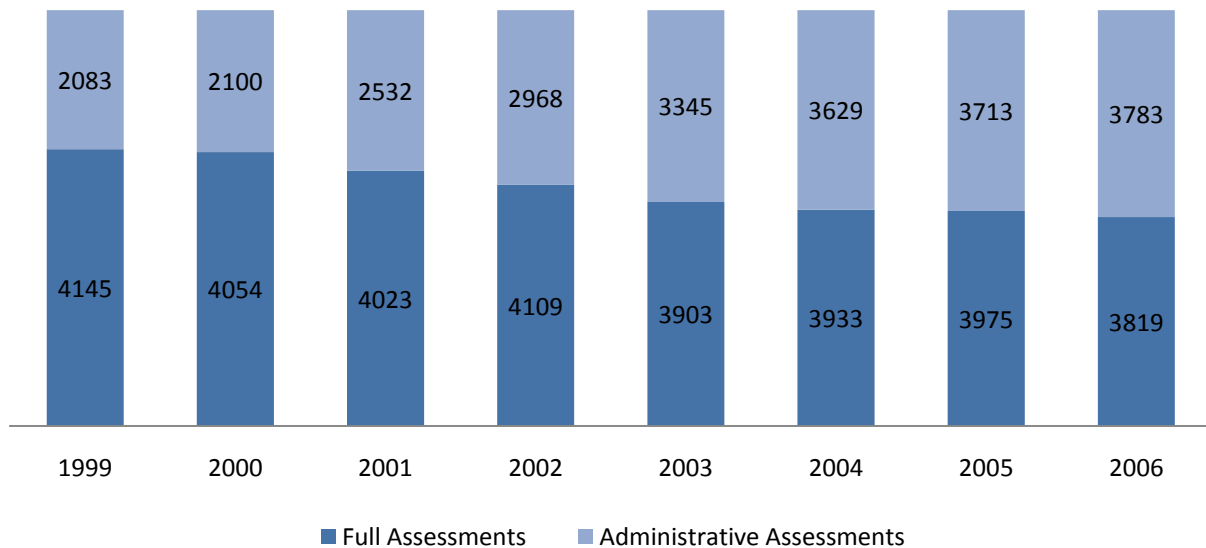
Table 2. Child Abuse & Neglect Reports

An administrative assessment is the process of documenting reports of suspected child abuse or neglect that do not meet the criteria for a full CPS assessment. The number of administrative assessments and full assessments equates to the total number of reports. Table 2 indicates the total number of reports peaked at 7,688 in 2005.

Year	Total reports
1999	6228
2000	6154
2001	6555
2002	7077
2003	7248
2004	7562
2005	7688
2006	7602

AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect.

Figure 3. Full and Administrative Assessments



AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 and 2006.

Source of Initial Report

The full assessment is a comprehensive inquiry by Child Protective Services (CPS) into the child abuse and neglect “960” report. The two potential case decision outcomes are services required or no services required.

- ☐ Services required – A CPS assessment decision, reflecting the belief that a child has been abused or neglected and requires contact with the juvenile court.
- ☐ No services required – A CPS assessment decision, reflecting the belief that a child has not been abused or neglected.
 - Services recommended – A CPS assessment decision reflecting the belief that a child has not been abused or neglected, but the family may be in need of preventative services.

Table 3 lists the number of services required decisions and full assessments by each referral sources type (personnel, persons, or provider). Mandated reporters are those required by law to report knowledge of or suspicions that a child is abused or neglected, or has died as a result of abuse or neglect. Included in the table is a list of reporters. Although anyone can report suspicions of child abuse and neglect, the majority of reports (70 percent) originate with mandated reporters. Non-mandatory reporters are indicated with an asterisk. The percent is calculated by the number of source referrals divided by the total number of full assessments for the given year. In FFY 2005, out of the 3,973 full assessments, 798 cases required services, which represented 20 percent of all cases referred to CPS. The percent remained stable in FFY 2006 with 20 percent (758) of the 3,800 full assessments warranting a case decision of services required.

Table 3. Child Abuse & Neglect Full Assessments and Services Required Decisions by Source

	FFY 2005				FFY 2006			
	Services Required		Full Assessments		Services Required		Full Assessments	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL								
Police/Sheriff	203	25.4	775	19.5	206	27.2	854	22.5
Courts, Attorneys	13	1.6	32	.8	5	.7	31	.8
Parole/Probation Office	10	1.3	47	1.2	14	1.8	50	1.3
Emergency Services Personnel	0	0	2	.1	1	.1	3	.1
Other Law Enforcement Personnel	17	2.1	39	1	15	2	41	1.1
MEDICAL PERSONNEL								
Private Physician	1	.1	9	.2	3	.4	8	.2
Clinic/Hospital Physician	21	2.6	64	4.6	20	2.6	62	1.6
ND Health Tracks	0	0	2	.1	1	.1	2	.1
Nurse	9	1.1	47	1.2	15	2	61	1.6
Medical Social Worker	42	5.3	114	2.9	25	3.3	100	2.6
Other Medical Personnel	6	.8	32	.8	6	.8	38	1
SCHOOL PERSONNEL								
School Nurse	3	.4	15	.4	3	.4	7	.2
Teacher	29	3.6	134	3.4	23	3	139	3.7
Principal	30	3.8	203	5.1	39	5.1	186	4.9
School Social Worker	19	2.4	92	2.3	19	2.5	104	2.7
School Counselor	53	6.6	346	8.7	50	6.6	302	7.9
Other School Personnel	10	1.3	73	1.8	15	2	71	1.9
SOCIAL SERVICES PERSONNEL								
Social Worker	54	6.8	173	4.4	33	4.4	120	3.2
Mental Health Professional-other than HSC	21	2.6	119	3	12	1.6	75	2
Human Service Center staff	32	4	132	3.3	31	4.1	134	3.5
Domestic Violence staff	17	2.1	124	3.1	15	2	105	2.8
Addiction staff (other than HSC)	3	.4	13	.3	2	.3	6	.2
Other social service personnel	12	1.5	56	1.4	12	1.6	62	1.6
DJS personnel	1	.1	6	.2	1	.1	5	.1
NON-AGENCY PERSONS								
Non-Custodial Parent*	14	1.8	193	4.8	19	2.5	177	4.7
Friend, Neighbor*	31	3.9	248	6.2	30	4	216	5.7
Victim*	3	.4	14	.4	0	0	15	.4
Custodial Parent*	17	2.1	158	4	21	2.8	165	4.3
Subject Report*	1	.1	1	0	0	0	4	.1
Clergy	1	.1	5	.1	1	.1	6	.2
Other Family Member*	60	7.5	259	6.5	56	7.4	226	5.9
CHILD CARE PROVIDER								
Child Care Center	2	.3	30	.8	1	.1	23	.6
Pre-School/Nursery School	3	.4	10	.3	2	.3	18	.5
Child Care Home	1	.1	15	.4	3	.4	18	.5
Babysitter	2	.3	9	.2	3	.4	8	.2
Institutional Staff	4	.5	12	.3	2	.3	5	.1
Foster Parent	3	.4	8	.2	4	.5	10	.3
Other Child Care Provider	1	.1	20	.5	2	.3	10	.3
OTHER								
Anonymous*	12	1.5	130	3.3	11	1.5	119	3.1
Other*	37	4.6	212	5.3	37	4.9	214	5.6
Total	798	100	3973	100	758	100	3,800	100

AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 and 2006.

*non-mandatory reporter

Family Stress Factors

Do family stress factors influence the likelihood of child abuse and neglect? The following data exhibit that families, in which child maltreatment is assessed, face multiple hardships. Tables 4 and 5 capture a snapshot of the family stress factors by case decision for FFY 2005 and 2006. Each table categorizes stress factors by health, economic or living conditions, family interaction problems, and other risk factors. The family stress factor data is duplicated, meaning that there can be more than one stress factor in a home assessed for child abuse and neglect. For example, a case decision of services required may apply to a family who is experiencing family stress factors due to pregnancy, insufficient income, and methamphetamine use by caregiver. In FFY 2005 there were 14,722 (Table 4) stress factors. Family interaction problems and health-related problems comprised 44 percent and 31 percent, respectively, of all family stress factors with completed full assessments (2005). The presence of family interaction problems increased to 49 percent of full assessments in 2006 whereas the percent of health-related problems remained constant (Table 5). Families who received full assessments in 2005 and 2006 had, on average, 3.7 stress factors present.

Table 4. Family Stress Factors, FFY 2005

	Services Required		No Services Required		Services Recommended		Full Assessments	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
HEALTH PROBLEMS-CAREGIVER								
Mental/Emotional Health Problem	384	26	244	25	564	27	1,192	26
Alcohol/Drug Misuse	391	27	172	18	576	27	1,139	25
Meth Use	175	12	32	3	116	5	323	7
Medical/Physical Disability	59	4	60	6	99	5	218	5
Mental Retardation	15	1	12	1	19	1	46	1
HEALTH PROBLEMS-CHILD								
Mental/Emotional Health Problem	264	18	299	30	481	23	1,044	23
Alcohol/Drug Misuse	59	4	68	7	100	5	227	5
Medical/Physical Disability	37	3	42	4	67	3	146	3
Mental Retardation	24	2	23	2	27	1	74	2
Meth Use	11	0	4	0	12	0	27	0
OTHER HEALTH PROBLEMS								
Other	37	3	42	4	65	3	144	3
Total Health Problems	1,456	100	998	100	2,126	100	4,580	100
ECONOMIC OR LIVING CONDITIONS								
Insufficient Income	137	22	79	24	204	25	420	24
Job Related Problems	116	19	70	21	147	18	333	19
Transient or Unstable Living Conditions	107	17	52	16	112	14	271	15
Social Isolation	79	13	34	10	117	14	230	13
Inadequate Housing	98	16	29	9	96	12	223	13
Other Economic Problems	35	6	51	15	107	13	193	11
Mismanagement of Income	40	7	15	5	34	4	89	5
Total Economic or Living Conditions	612	100	330	100	817	100	1,759	100
FAMILY INTERACTION FACTORS								
Single Parent	290	16	375	22	640	18	1,305	18
Family Interaction Risks	249	14	350	21	606	17	1,205	17
Inability to Cope with Parenting Responsibility	385	21	122	7	474	13	981	14
Relationship Problems/Instability	184	10	215	13	472	13	871	12
Domestic Abuse	193	11	70	4	375	10	638	9
Disruption of Family Structure	122	7	132	8	241	7	495	7
Birth Out of Wedlock	123	7	124	7	219	6	466	7
Other Family Violence	117	6	66	4	215	6	398	6
New Baby/Pregnancy	111	6	113	7	160	4	384	5
Custody Concerns	40	2	129	7	166	5	335	5
Military Deployment of Caregiver	4	0	6	0	18	1	28	0
Total Family Interaction Problems	1,818	100	1,702	100	3,586	100	7,106	100
OTHER								
Other Risk Factors	285	59	246	99	509	94	4,580	31
No Risk Factors	199	41	3	1	35	6	1,759	12
Other Total	474	100	249	100	544	100	7,106	100
Total Stress Factors	4,135	--	3,514	--	7,073	--	14,722	--

AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005.

Table 5. Family Stress Factors, FFY 2006

	Services Required		No Services Required		Services Recommended		Full Assessments	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
HEALTH PROBLEMS-CAREGIVER								
Mental/Emotional Health Problem	348	25	191	28	624	27	1,163	27
Alcohol/Drug Misuse	405	29	114	17	632	27	1,151	26
Meth Use	154	11	25	3	96	4	275	6
Medical/Physical Disability	62	4	40	6	105	5	207	5
Mental Retardation	9	1	11	2	25	1	45	1
HEALTH PROBLEMS-CHILD								
Mental/Emotional Health Problem	259	19	185	27	546	24	990	23
Alcohol/Drug Misuse by Child	67	5	36	5	91	4	194	4
Medical/Physical Disability	24	2	33	5	76	3	133	3
Mental Retardation of Child	20	1	16	2	45	2	81	2
Meth Use by Child	7	0	2	0	4	0	13	0
OTHER HEALTH PROBLEMS								
Other Health Problems	37	3	32	5	71	3	140	3
Total Health Problems	1,392	100	685	100	2,315	100	4,392	100
ECONOMIC OR LIVING CONDITIONS								
Insufficient Income	110	19	39	22	195	25	344	23
Job Related Problems	94	17	38	22	140	18	272	18
Transient or Unstable Living Conditions	127	22	19	11	105	13	251	16
Social Isolation	62	11	27	15	90	12	179	12
Inadequate Housing	89	16	9	5	74	9	172	11
Other Economic Problems	59	10	36	21	133	17	228	15
Mismanagement of Income	29	5	8	4	44	6	81	5
Total Economic or Living Conditions	570	100	176	100	781	100	1,527	100
FAMILY INTERACTION FACTORS								
Single Parent	320	18	315	26	718	18	1,353	20
Other Family Interaction Risks	230	13	250	21	659	17	1,139	17
Inability to Cope with Parenting Responsibility	349	20	72	6	489	12	910	13
Relationship Problems/Instability	205	12	114	10	518	13	837	12
Domestic Abuse	187	11	45	4	389	10	621	9
Disruption of Family Structure	96	5	89	7	226	6	411	6
Birth Out of Wedlock	114	6	93	8	232	6	439	6
Other Family Violence	114	6	32	2	271	7	417	6
New Baby/Pregnancy	89	5	86	7	181	5	356	5
Custody Concerns	69	4	98	8	221	6	388	6
Military Deployment of Caregiver	7	0	8	1	17	0	32	0
Total Family Interaction Problems	1,780	100	1,202	100	3,921	100	6,903	100
OTHER								
Other Risk Factors	240	98	190	52	591	93	1,021	82
No Risk Factors	5	2	175	48	46	7	226	18
Other Total	245	100	365	100	637	100	1,247	100
Total Stress Factors	3,987	--	2,428	--	7,654	--	14,069	--

AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2006.

Services Provided or Arranged Post-Assessment

Tables 6 and 7 list the types of services that may have been made available to children and families who have experienced child abuse and neglect. In cases where no services are required, assessment only (33 percent in 2005; 35 percent in 2006) was the most frequent service

provided. Available services for children and families who have experienced child abuse and neglect vary by county.

Table 6. Services by Assessment Type, FFY 2005

	Services Required		No Services Required		Services Recommended		Full Assessments	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Assessment Only	16	.4	666	33	172	3.4	854	7.5
Addiction Services	339	7.7	29	1.4	412	8.2	780	6.8
Budgeting/Home Management Services	19	.4	1	0	10	.2	30	.3
Case Management	528	12	23	1.1	183	3.7	734	6.4
Child Care	4	.1	0	0	14	.3	18	.2
Child Protection Team Staffing	692	15.8	607	30	1,210	24.2	2,509	22
Church/Neighborhood Assistance	4	.1	2	0	11	.2	17	.1
Criminal Charges Recommended	104	2.4	1	0	9	.2	114	1
Domestic Violence Services	90	2.1	12	.6	216	4.3	318	2.8
Emergency Shelter Care	157	3.6	1	0	24	.5	182	1.6
Employment Services	12	.3	0	0	7	.1	19	.2
Financial/Public Assistance	16	.4	3	.1	22	.4	41	.4
Foster Care or Out-of-Home Placement	233	5.3	4	.2	39	.8	276	2.4
Health Services	25	.6	13	.6	51	1	89	.8
Homemaker Services/HHA	2	0	1	0	1	0	4	0
Housing Assistance	15	.3	3	.1	14	.3	32	.3
Immediate Medical Services	36	.8	6	.3	16	.3	58	.5
Intensive In-Home	43	1	10	.5	89	1.8	142	1.2
Joint Investigation with Law Enforcement	211	4.8	62	3.1	118	2.4	391	3.4
Juvenile Court Referral	451	10.3	5	.2	32	.6	488	4.3
Legal Services	17	.4	5	.2	16	.3	38	.3
Mental Health Services/Counseling	444	10.1	114	5.6	674	13.5	1,232	10.8
Other Services	306	7	126	6.2	811	16.2	1,243	10.9
Parent Aide	72	1.6	6	.3	86	1.7	164	1.4
Parenting Education	170	3.9	43	2.1	309	6.2	522	4.6
Parents Anonymous/Self-Help Groups	8	.2	4	.2	37	.7	49	.4
Prime Time Child Care	8	.2	1	0	6	.1	15	.1
Protection and Advocacy Referral	3	.1	0	0	3	.1	6	.1
Receiving Services at Time of Assessment	121	2.8	267	13.2	353	7.1	741	6.5
Respite Care	4	.1	2	0	11	.2	17	.1
Safety Permanency	23	.5	2	.1	13	.3	38	.3
State's Attorney Referral	209	4.8	0	0	22	.4	231	2
Victim Witness Advocacy	7	.2	1	0	3	.1	11	.1
Total	4,389	100	2,020	100	4,994	100	11,403	100

AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005.

The percent is based on column percent (or total of each service type).

Table 7. Services by Assessment Type, FFY 2006

	Services Required		No Services Required		Services Recommended		Full Assessments	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Addiction Services	234	6.8	18	1.3	339	7.1	591	6.1
Assessment Only	24	.7	503	35.2	254	5.3	781	8.1
Budgeting/Home Management Services	12	.4	0	0	9	.2	21	.2
Case Management	461	13.4	13	.9	128	2.7	602	6.2
Child Care	9	.3	1	.1	13	.3	23	.2
Child Protection Team Staffing	514	15	411	28.8	1,169	24.4	2,094	21.7
Church/Neighborhood Assistance	3	.1	1	.1	7	.1	11	.1
Criminal Charges Recommended	97	2.8	1	.1	16	.3	114	1.2
Domestic Violence Services	62	1.8	8	.6	176	3.7	246	2.5
Emergency Shelter Care	115	3.4	4	.3	26	.5	145	1.5
Employment Services	9	.3	0	0	10	.2	19	.2
Financial/Public Assistance	21	.6	6	.4	47	1	74	.8
Foster Care or Out-of-Home Placement	179	5.2	5	.3	37	.8	221	2.3
Health Services	42	1.2	9	.6	52	1.1	103	1.1
Homemaker Services/HHA	2	.1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Housing Assistance	15	.4	2	.1	10	.2	27	.3
Immediate Medical Services	17	.5	2	.1	11	.2	30	.3
Intensive In-Home	33	1	3	.2	77	1.6	113	1.2
Joint Investigation with Law Enforcement	161	4.7	38	2.7	114	2.4	313	3.2
Juvenile Court Referral	390	11.4	5	.3	35	.7	430	4.5
Legal Services	6	.3	2	.1	15	.3	23	.2
Mental Health Services/Counseling	307	9	76	5.3	656	13.7	1,039	10.8
Other Services	231	6.7	98	6.9	803	16.7	1,132	11.7
Parent Aide	35	1	7	.5	63	1.3	105	1.1
Parenting Education	136	4	45	3.1	328	6.8	509	5.3
Parents Anonymous/Self-Help Groups	7	.2	6	.4	46	1	59	.6
Prime Time Child Care	4	.1	0	0	6	.1	10	.1
Protection and Advocacy Referral	2	.1	2	.1	6	.1	10	.1
Receiving Services at Time of Assessment	90	2.6	157	11	281	5.9	528	5.5
Respite Care	1	0	0	0	15	.3	16	.2
Safety Permanency	11	.3	2	.1	23	.5	36	.4
State's Attorney Referral	195	5.7	3	.2	25	.5	223	2.3
Victim Witness Advocacy	3	.1	1	0	0	.1	4	0
Total	3,428	100	1,429	100	4,798	100	9,655	100

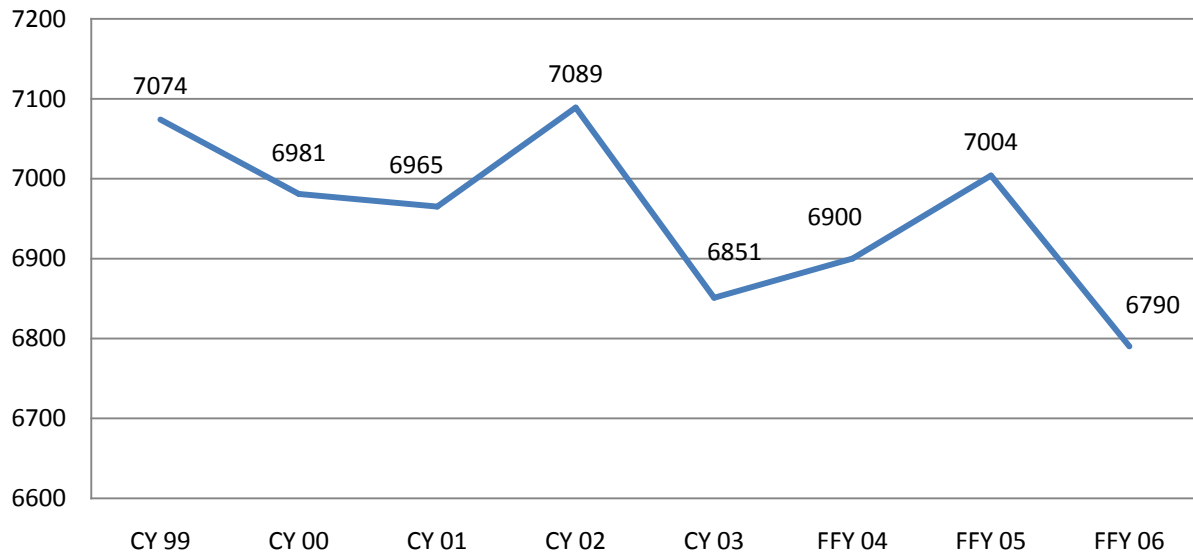
AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2006.

The percent is based on column percent (or total of each service type).

Reported Child Victim Population in North Dakota

Information received by CPS concerning the suspected maltreatment of a child is summarized in a "960" report. In CY 2002, this population of reported children peaked at 7,089 and then dropped to 6,851 the following year (Figure 4). After a steady incline to 7,004 children in FFY 2005, the number decreased the following year to 6,790 children.

Figure 4 Number of Reported Victims

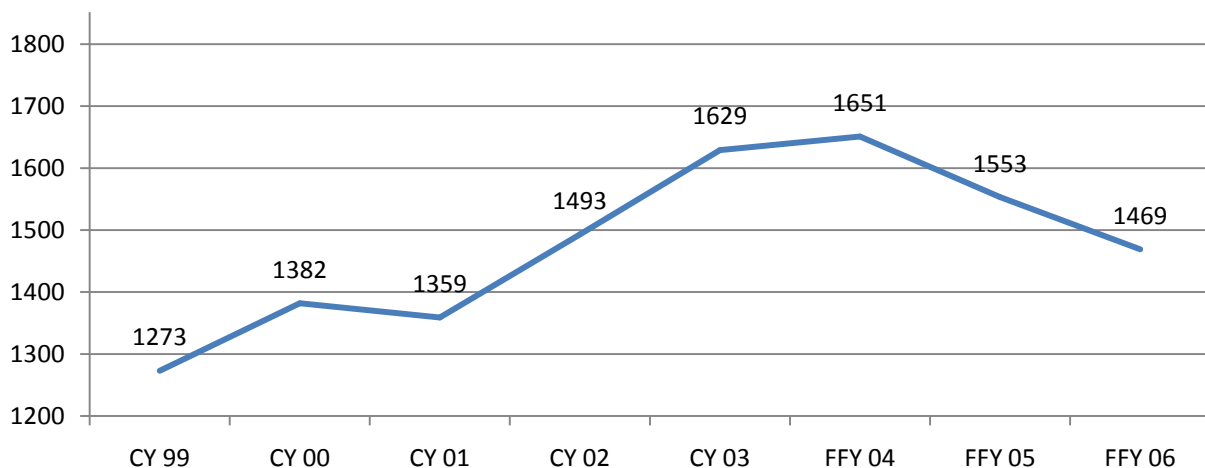


AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect CY 1999 - FFY 2006. CY=January 1-December 31. FFY=October 1-September 30.

Actual (Services Required) Child Victim Population in North Dakota

The actual child victim population is composed of children whom CPS determined services were required. Figure 5 distinguishes the number of actual child abuse and neglect victims (based on a determination from CPS) from the number of reported victims (Figure 4). For example, in FFY 2006, there were 6,790 reported victims and 1,469 resulted in services required. In both 2005 and 2006, 22 percent of all reported cases of child abuse and neglect resulted in a services required decision.

Figure 5. Number of Victims Identified in Services Required Cases

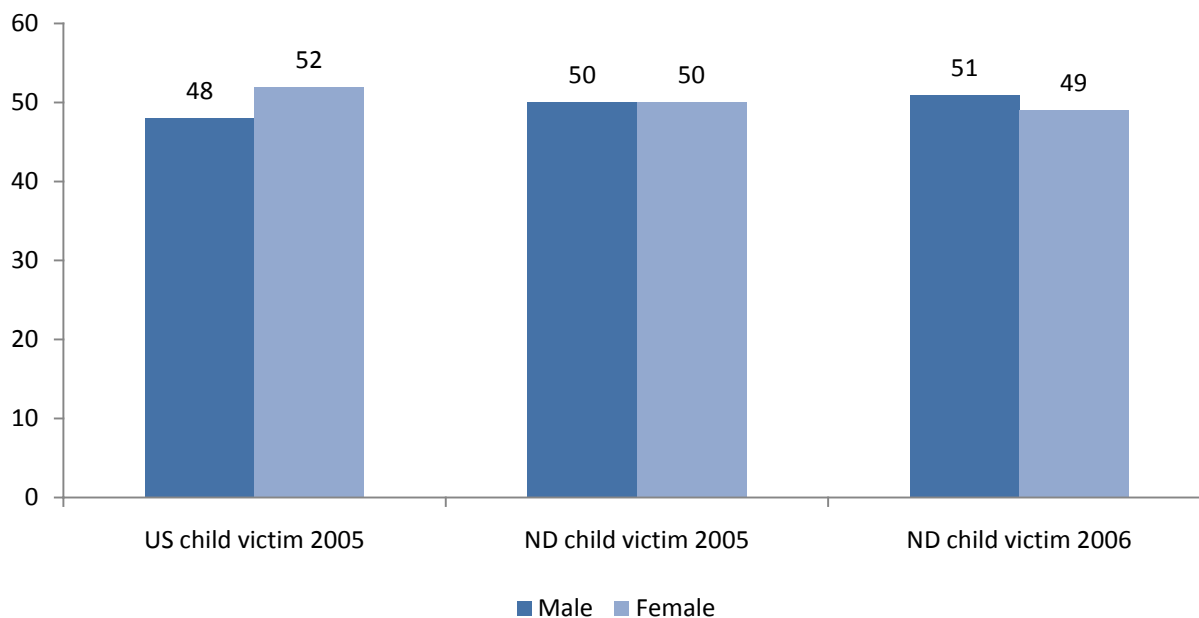


AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect CY 1999 - FFY 2006. CY=January 1-December 31. FFY=October 1-September 30.

Child Abuse and Neglect: Victim Gender

Although there is a comparable balance between male and female child victims in North Dakota, the national data on victims indicate an increased likelihood of female victimization.

Figure 6. Percent of Reported Victims by Gender

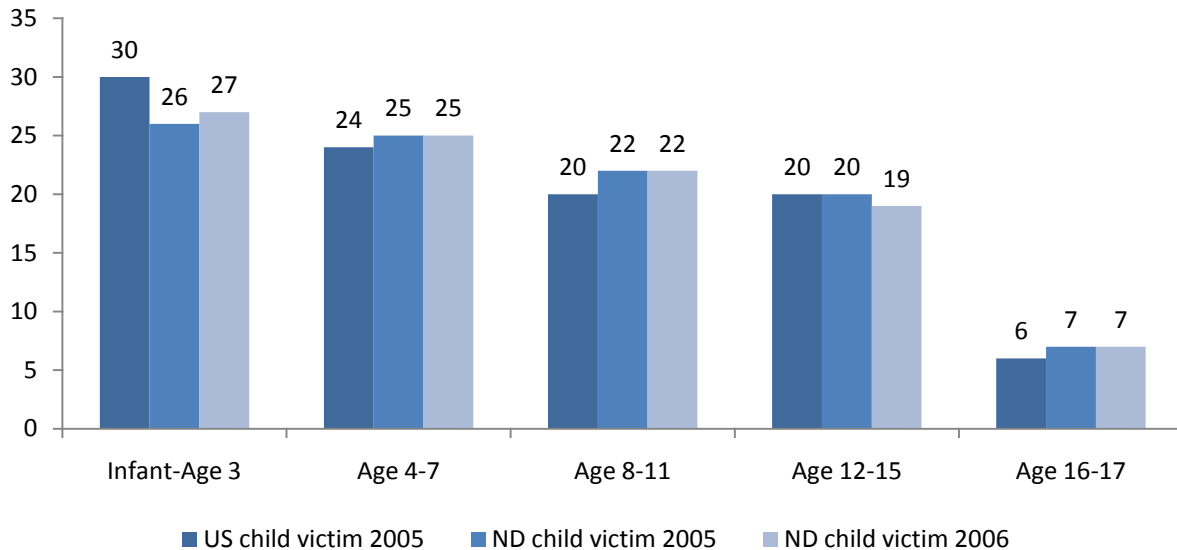


NCANDS, 2005. AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=6,966) and 2006 (N=6,756).

Child Abuse and Neglect: Victim Age

In FFY 2005 and 2006, the percent of child abuse and neglect victims, by age, have remained relatively unchanged in North Dakota. As children progress in age, the incidence of victimization decreases.

Figure 7. Percent of Reported Victims by Age



National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, 2005. AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=6,999) and 2006 (N=6,787).

Table 8. Number and Percent of Reported North Dakota Child Abuse & Neglect Victims by Age

One-year-old children (653 in 2005; 630 in 2006) were most frequently reported as victims of child abuse and neglect in the State of North Dakota. Two-year-olds, the second most prevalent age, followed with 496 reports in 2005 and 482 in 2006. Rates of reported infant child abuse were the lowest of all age groups (3 percent in 2005; 3.7 percent in 2006) followed by seventeen-year-olds (2.9 percent in 2005; 3.2 percent in 2006).

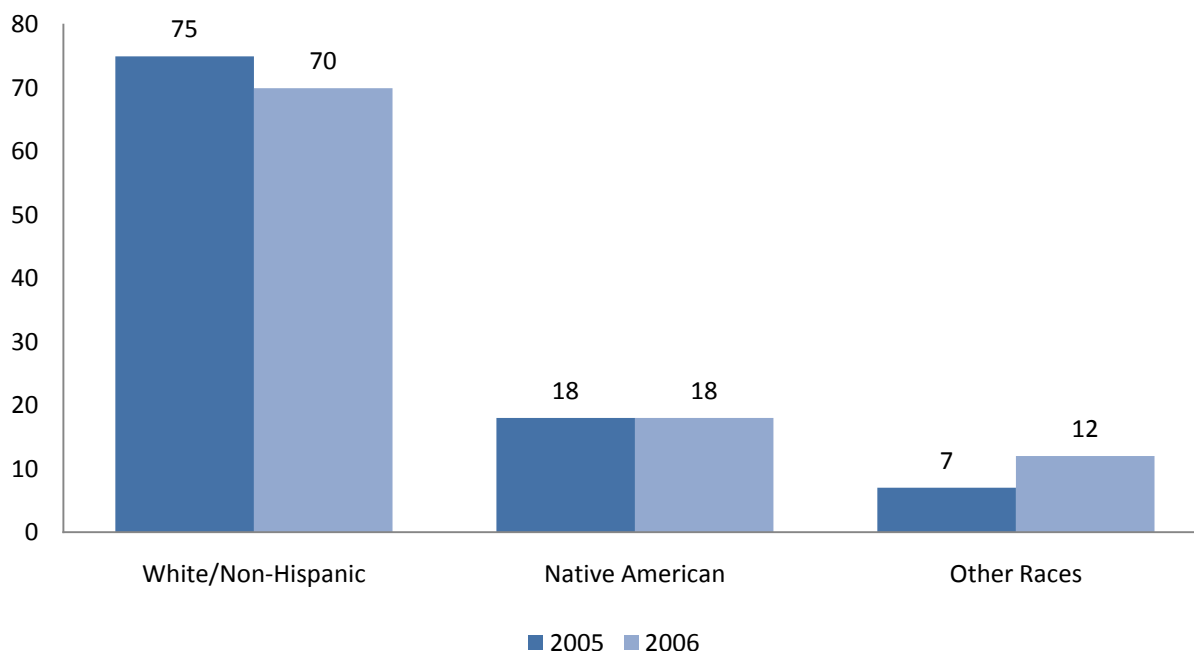
Age	2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%
Infant	213	3	255	3.7
1	653	9.3	630	9.3
2	496	7	482	7.1
3	451	6.4	452	6.7
4	456	6.5	406	6
5	432	6.2	440	6.5
6	425	6.1	428	6.3
7	460	6.6	417	6.1
8	409	5.8	424	6.2
9	358	5.2	358	5.3
10	395	5.6	364	5.4
11	356	5.1	352	5.2
12	361	5.2	317	4.7
13	347	5	353	5.2
14	362	5.2	321	4.7
15	351	5	319	4.7
16	274	3.9	249	3.7
17	200	2.9	220	3.2
Total	6,999	100	6,787	100

AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=6,999) and 2006 (N=6,787).

Child Abuse and Neglect: Victim Race

White children make up the majority of the general child population in North Dakota (86 percent) and reported victims of child abuse and neglect (75 percent in 2005; 70 percent in 2006). Native American children constitute 7 percent of the state general child population and 18 percent of the reported child abuse and neglect child population in North Dakota. Native American children are disproportionately represented as reported child abuse and neglect victims in North Dakota.

Figure 8. Percent of Reported Victims by Race



AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=6,880) and 2006 (N=6,712). The race was unknown for 124 victims in 2005 and 78 in 2006

Reported and Actual Victims by County and Region

Table 9 divides full assessments into the reported and actual number of victims. Each full assessment may include more than one child victim, which explains why the number of full assessments does not equal the number of reported child victims. Table 10 is a calculation of the total number of full assessments and reported and actual victims by region. The row percent is the percent of actual victims out of the total number of reported victims. Twenty-two percent of reported victims in North Dakota are actual victims based on a services required decision.

Table 9. Number of Full Assessments with Reported and Actual Victims by County

Region	County	2005			2006		
		Full Assessments	Reported Victims	Actual Victims	Full Assessments	Reported Victims	Actual Victims
I:	Divide	8	13	1	9	16	2
	McKenzie	16	31	12	28	45	9
	Williams	136	240	43	135	240	60
II:	Bottineau	17	29	4	22	39	2
	Burke	12	18	11	6	16	5
	McHenry	24	54	10	17	31	9
	Mountrail	23	36	4	23	45	20
	Pierce	14	27	2	19	30	7
	Renville	8	15	1	8	18	10
	Ward	558	948	227	476	839	176
III:	Benson	8	16	6	9	15	5
	Cavalier	11	22	7	13	32	10
	Eddy	8	14	1	6	15	4
	Ramsey	97	218	66	91	165	63
	Rollette	62	119	26	49	80	18
	Towner	13	20	6	12	20	7
IV:	Grand Forks	513	970	239	478	942	263
	Nelson	11	18	7	8	9	1
	Pembina	37	75	29	25	50	12
	Walsh	82	7	33	62	139	37
V:	Cass	1,017	1,626	318	1,044	1,731	267
	Ransom	18	36	6	13	26	1
	Richland	80	142	18	89	155	30
	Sargent	7	14	3	11	17	2
	Steele	3	3	1	2	2	0
	Traill	17	36	7	21	38	16
VI:	Barnes	32	60	17	46	89	47
	Dickey	18	38	8	29	62	21
	Foster	11	23	3	6	13	4
	Griggs	1	3	0	4	10	2
	LaMoure	13	25	3	14	29	6
	Logan	1	4	4	0	0	0
	McIntosh	5	11	3	8	18	9
	Stutsman	104	188	52	97	155	41
VII:	Wells	22	37	8	11	19	6
	Burleigh	503	819	170	460	796	126
	Emmons	6	13	2	4	9	3
	Grant	5	12	4	4	8	0
	Kidder	6	7	2	12	26	1
	McLean	20	32	3	12	19	6
	Mercer	13	25	9	13	29	5
	Morton	171	319	68	172	303	38
	Oliver	4	9	5	0	0	0
	Sheridan	2	5	0	6	8	0
VIII:	Sioux	1	3	0	2	7	0
	Adams	9	14	3	8	13	3
	Billings	3	8	2	2	4	3
	Bowman	13	24	10	11	22	9
	Dunn	6	11	4	15	26	5
	Golden Valley	9	27	8	12	31	1
	Hettinger	10	15	6	10	16	5
	Slope	3	6	0	2	3	0
	Stark	184	330	71	183	320	92

AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 and 2006.

Table 10. Aggregate Number of Full Assessment and Reported Victims by Region

Region	2005				2006			
	Full Assessments	Reported Victims	Actual Victims	Row %	Full Assessments	Reported Victims	Actual Victims	Row %
I	160	284	56	20	172	301	71	23
II	656	1,127	259	23	571	1,018	229	22
III	199	486	112	23	180	327	107	33
IV	643	1,279	308	24	573	1,140	313	27
V	1,142	2,092	353	17	1,180	1,969	316	16
VI	207	485	98	20	215	395	136	34
VII	731	1,460	263	18	685	1,205	179	15
VIII	237	501	104	21	243	435	118	27
TOTAL	3,975	7,004	1,553	22	3,819	6,790	1,469	22

AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 and 2006.

Types of Child Maltreatment

Victims may experience more than one type of maltreatment. Therefore, this is an unduplicated count with each maltreatment incident included in the data. In 2005 and 2006, there were 2,449 maltreatment victimizations experienced by 1,553 victims and 2,402 maltreatment victimizations experienced by 1,469 victims, respectively (Table 11). Psychological maltreatment is most common of all typologies followed by neglect. Psychological maltreatment is without a subset of descriptive maltreatment categories. Of the remaining maltreatment types, inadequate supervision, a subset of the neglect category, is the most frequently reported victimization whereas other neglect is the most common among actual victims.

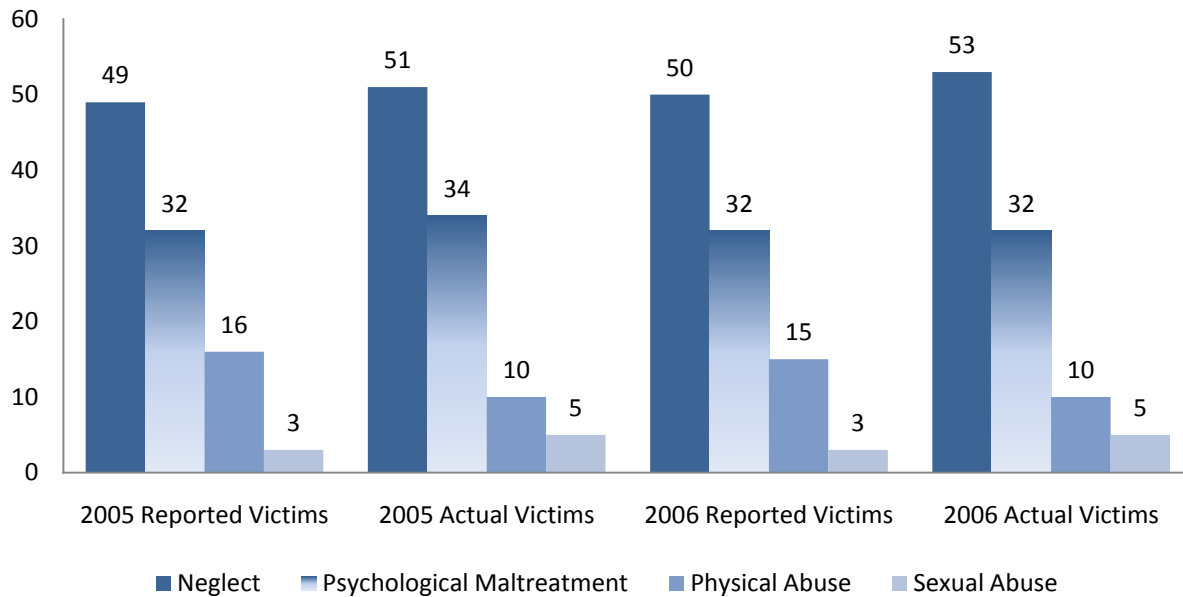
Table 11. Number of Specific Types of Reported and Actual Maltreatment

		2005 Maltreatment		2006 Maltreatment	
		Reported #	Actual #	Reported #	Actual #
Physical Abuse:	Excessive Corporal Punishment	683	73	599	86
	Minor Cuts/Bruises/Welts	470	90	346	66
	Other Minor Injury	257	41	345	49
	Burns/Scalds	28	7	11	2
	Tying, Close Confinement	26	7	19	6
	Severe Cuts/Lacerations/Bruises	23	11	23	14
	Other Major Physical Injury	14	4	12	4
	Bone Fracture	13	3	18	5
	Twisting/Shaking	12	3	21	4
	Dislocation/Sprains	8	7	2	0
	Gunshot Wounds	7	1	2	0
	Minor Fracture/Sprains	7	1	5	0
	Subdural Hemorrhage of Hematoma	6	5	5	3
	Intentional Poisoning	3	1	2	1
	Brain Damage/Skull Fracture	2	1	5	3
	Fatal	2	2	5	2
	Internal Injuries	2	1	3	0
	Stabbing	2	0	1	0
	Total (Physical Abuse)	1,565	258	1,424	245
Neglect:	Inadequate Supervision	1,808	363	1,900	431
	Other Neglect	1,417	465	1,579	483
	Inadequate Shelter	621	160	451	134
	Educational Neglect	444	93	386	99
	Inadequate Nourishment	175	46	155	37
	Inadequate Health Care	130	31	125	31
	Inadequate Clothing	93	24	77	21
	Abandonment	56	36	38	16
	Drugs Present at Birth	16	10	25	12
	Meth Present at Birth	14	13	7	7
	Failure to Thrive	7	1	6	4
	Alcohol Present at Birth	2	1	10	1
	Total (Neglect)	4,783	1,243	4,759	1,277
Psychological:	Total (Psychological)	3,187	827	3,061	767
Sexual Abuse:	Sexual Fondling	161	64	140	57
	Other Form of Sexual Exploitation	101	35	101	33
	Intercourse	31	22	32	23
	Total (Sexual Abuse)	293	121	273	113
Total Number of Child Maltreatments		9,828	2,449	9,517	2,402
Total Number of Reported Victims		7,004	--	6,790	--
Total Number of Actual Victims		--	1,553	--	1,469

AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 and 2006.

Of actual victims, or those determined to be victims by a decision of services required full assessment, 53 percent (2006) of victims were maltreated by neglect (Figure 9). This is close to the percent of reported neglect victims (50 percent). While 15 percent of maltreatments reported are for physical abuse, 10 percent are confirmed as actual child victims. In 2005 and 2006, three percent of maltreatment reports were for sexual abuse while five percent were confirmed as actual victims.

Figure 9. Percent of Reported and Actual Child Maltreatment by Type

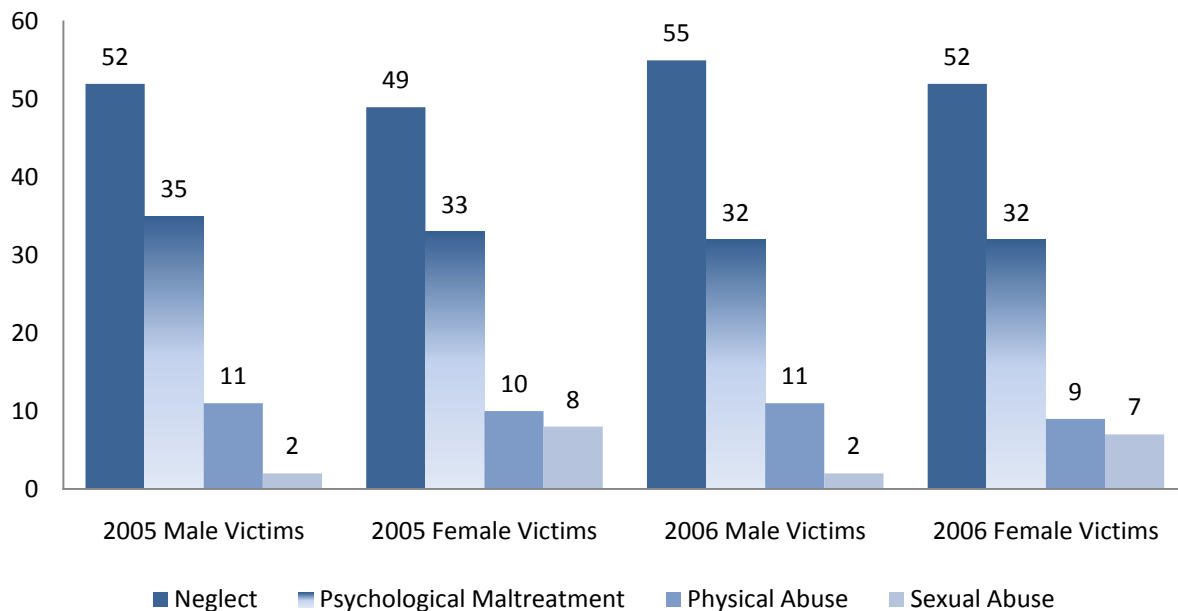


AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 and 2006.

Maltreatment and Gender

Do certain types of maltreatment vary by gender? Male children (52 percent in 2005; 55 percent in 2006) were slightly more likely than their female counterparts (49 percent in 2005; 52 percent in 2006) to be victimized by neglect (Figure 10). Psychological abuse was experienced equally by male and female children in 2006. Male children experienced physical abuse (11 percent in 2005 and 2006) at a slightly higher percent than females (10 percent in 2005; 9 percent in 2006). Females were disproportionately victimized by sexual abuse (8 percent in 2005; 7 percent in 2006), compared to males at 2 percent in 2005 and 2006.

Figure 10. Gender of Actual Victims by Maltreatment Type (Percent)

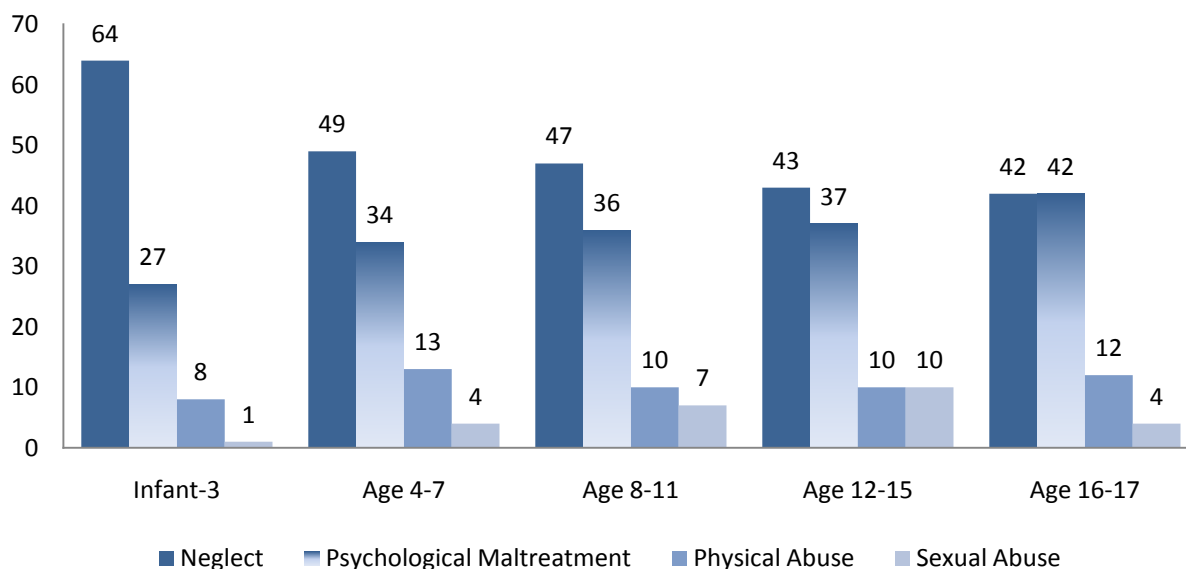


AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 and 2006.

Maltreatment and Age

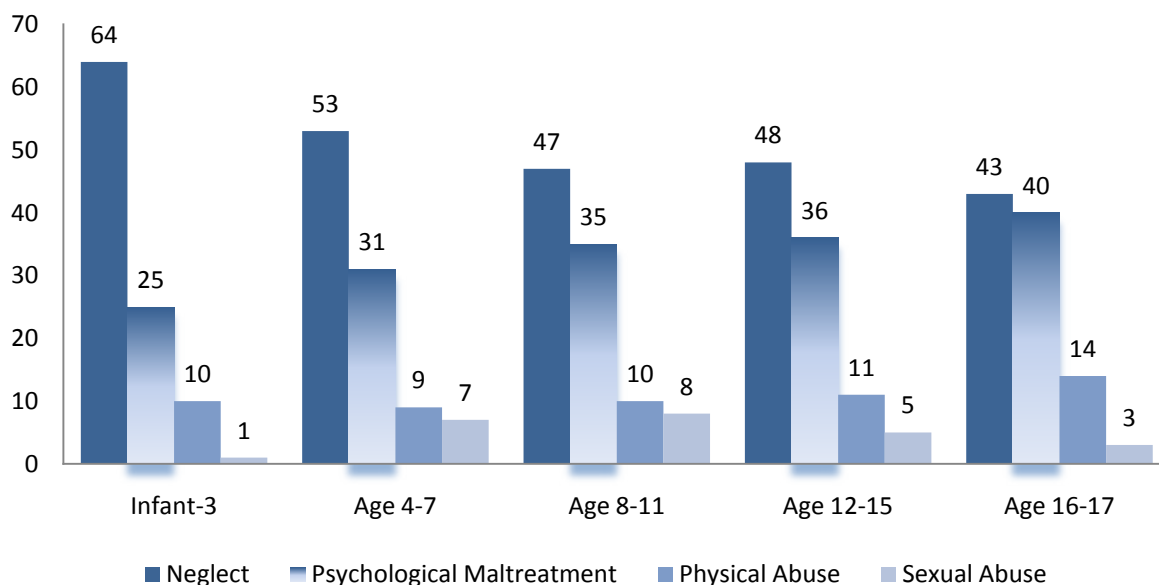
Figures 11 and 12 illustrate neglect, psychological maltreatment, physical, and sexual abuse by age. As a child's age increased, there was a steady decrease in the percent of children who were actual victims of neglect. The opposite trend occurred with psychological maltreatment; the rate of psychological maltreatment slightly increases with age. In 2005 (Figure 11), the infant-3 age category represented the lowest percent of physical abuse victims (8 percent) yet, in 2006 (Figure 12), the 4-7 age group was the least likely to experience physical abuse (9 percent). The highest rate of physical abuse victimizations was among the age 4-7 group (13 percent) in 2005 and the age 16-17 group (14 percent) in 2006. Sexual abuse victimizations involving children age 12-15 occurred more often than any other age group in 2005. Yet, in 2006, the younger age bracket of 8-11 year-olds was represented more often as victims of sexual abuse.

Figure 11. Percent of Actual Victims by Maltreatment Type by Age Range in FFY 2005



AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005.

Figure 12. Percent of Actual Victims by Maltreatment Type by Age Range in FFY 2006



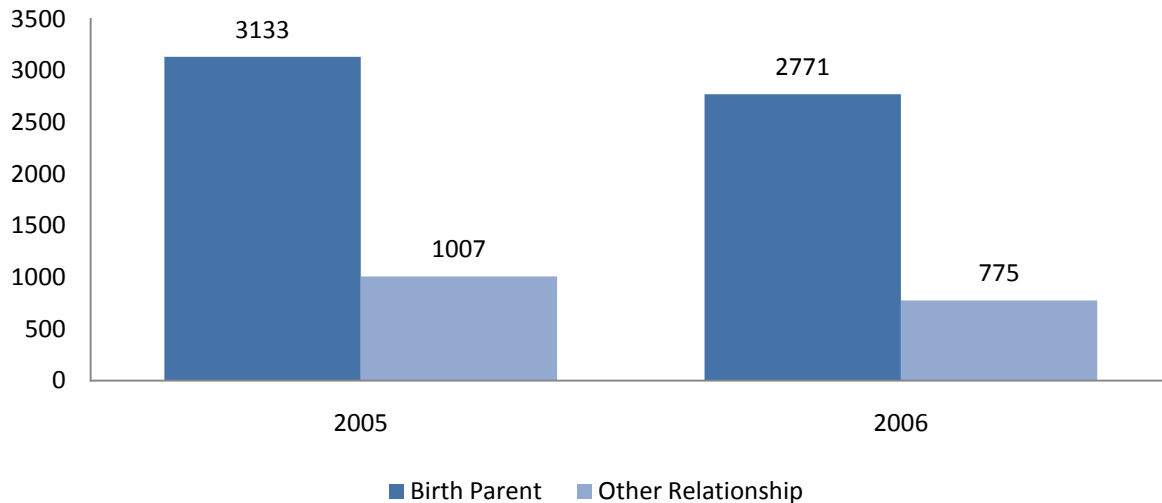
AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2006.

Relationship between Victim and Subject

The subject, a person who is suspected of abuse or neglect of a child or a person who has abused or neglected a child, may or may not be related to the victim. In 2005, relatives were named as the subject in 91 percent (3,133) of full assessments. In 2006, 88 percent (2,771) of child abuse and neglect victims were maltreated by relatives. The number of relationships is based on each subject-victim relationship. If a full assessment indicates there are two birth

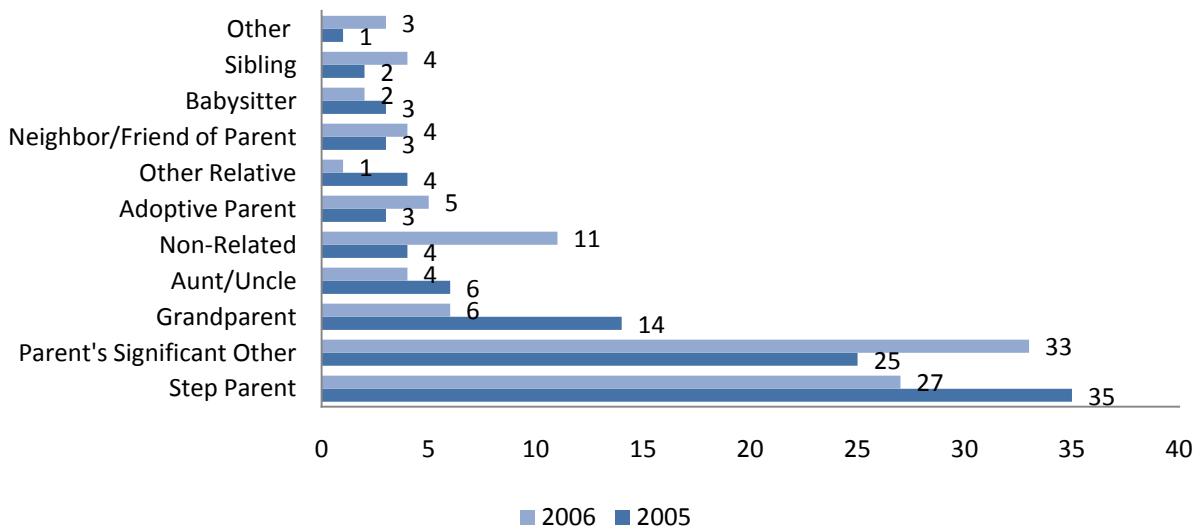
parents as subjects and three children as victims, six relationships exist in that particular report. Figures 13 and 14 indicate the type of relationship in services required cases. In 2005 and 2006, 76 percent (3,133) and 78 percent (2,771) respectively, of subject-victim relationships involve birth parent and child. The relationships between subject and victim, other than birth parent are illustrated in Figure 13. The relationship of step-parent to child and parent's significant-other to child are the most common types involving child maltreatment following that of birth parent to child (Figure 14).

Figure 13. Number of Relationships between Subject and Actual Victim



AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=4,140) and 2006 (N=3,546).

Figure 14. Percent of Actual Subject-Victim 'Other' Relationships

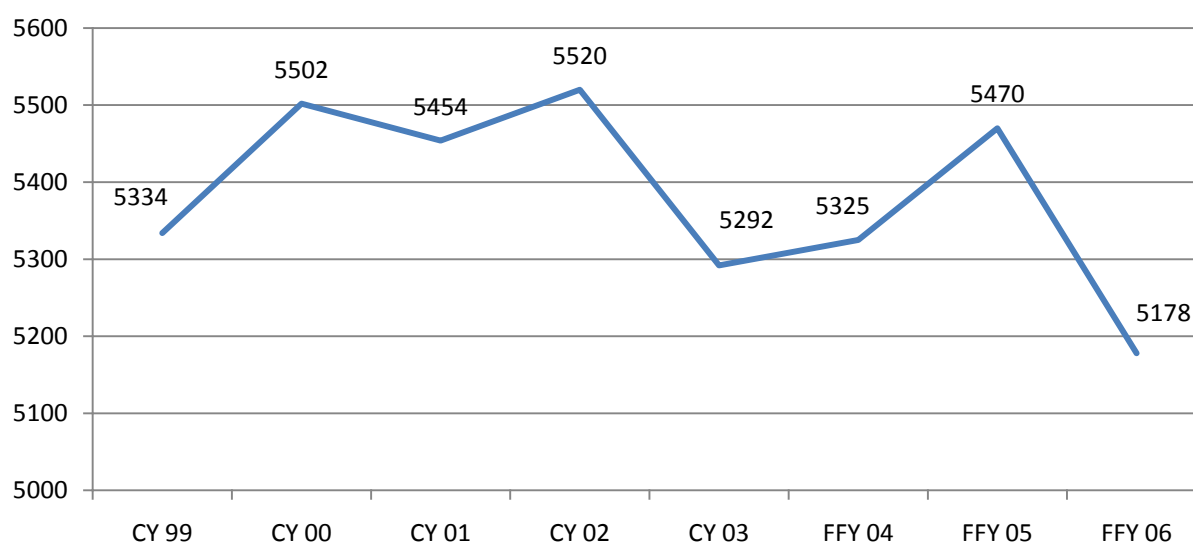


AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=1,007) and 2006 (N=775).

Reported Adult Subject Population in North Dakota

A subject is a person who is suspected of abuse or neglect of a child or a person who has abused or neglected a child. The United States Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Children’s Bureau refers to a subject as a perpetrator. These terms will be used synonymously throughout this section in the comparison of state and national data. A subject may be counted multiple times if he or she is listed as the subject for child maltreatment for more than one child. This occurs for either the same or different reports. In 2005, there were 7,004 victims and 5,470 subjects reported to Child Protective Services (Figure 15). From 2005 to 2006, there was a 3 percent decrease in victims (6,790) and a five percent decrease in the number of subjects (5,178) listed in “960” reports.

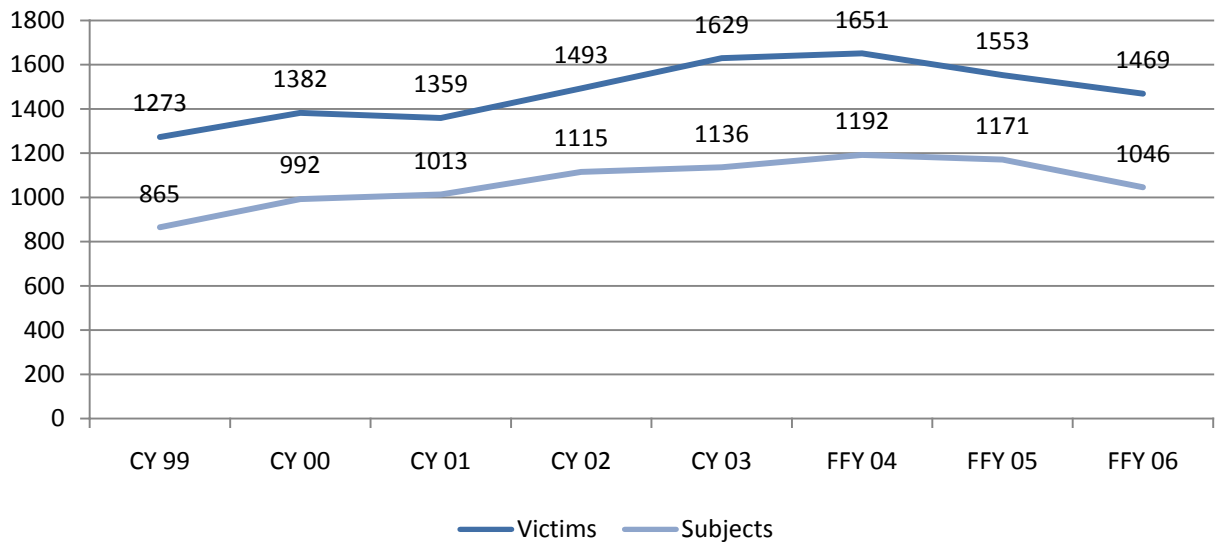
Figure 15. Number of Reported Subjects



AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, CY 1999 - FFY 2006. CY=January 1-December 31. FFY=October 1-September 30.

Figure 16 further differentiates between services required assessments for subjects and services required assessments for victims. In 2005 and 2006, the percent of subjects involved in services required assessments of the total number of subjects reported remained stable at 21 percent and 20 percent, respectively. In reference to victims, 22 percent of all reported cases of child abuse and neglect were confirmed with an actual victim.

Figure 16. Number of Victims and Subjects Involved in Services Required Assessments

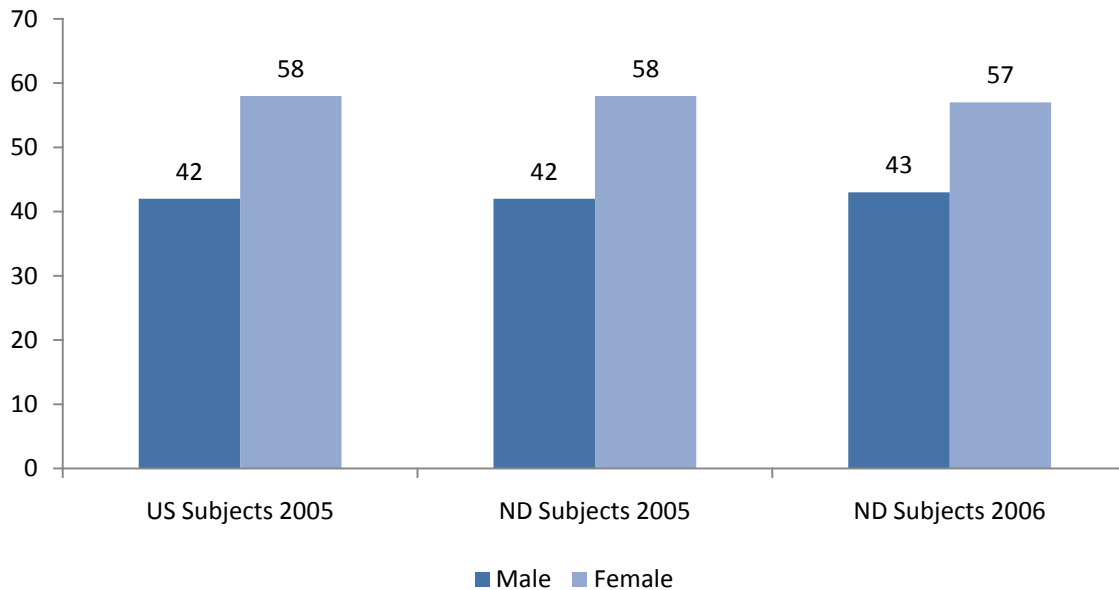


AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, CY 1999 - FFY 2006. CY=January 1-December 31. FFY=October 1-September 30.

Subject Gender

Are females or males more likely to engage in child maltreatment? Females are disproportionately represented as subjects as reported to CPS in North Dakota (Figure 17). This gender disparity resembles the national data on reported subjects.

Figure 17. Percent of United States and North Dakota Subjects by Gender



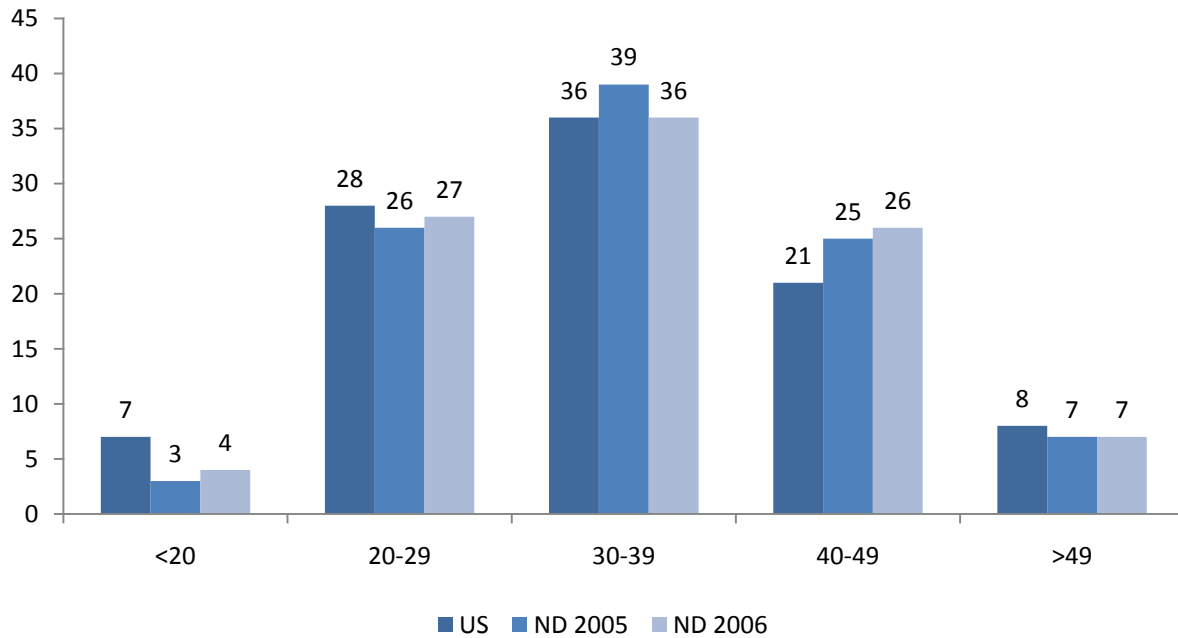
NCANDS, 2005. AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=5,470) and 2006 (N=5,178).

Subject Age

Are subjects overrepresented in a particular age group? Figures 18-21 depict the percent of male and female subjects by age range. While Figure 18 distinguishes male subjects by age range in the United States and North Dakota, Figure 19 provides the age demographics of the North Dakota general adult male population. Fifteen percent of the general adult male population in North Dakota fell into the age range of 30 to 39, yet this age range accounted for 39 percent, in 2005, and 36 percent, in 2006, of male subjects. In contrast, the males older than age 49 were the largest segment (40 percent) of the general population in North Dakota and the smallest among male subjects (7 percent) in 2005 and 2006. The age trends for male subjects in North Dakota and the United States were similar.

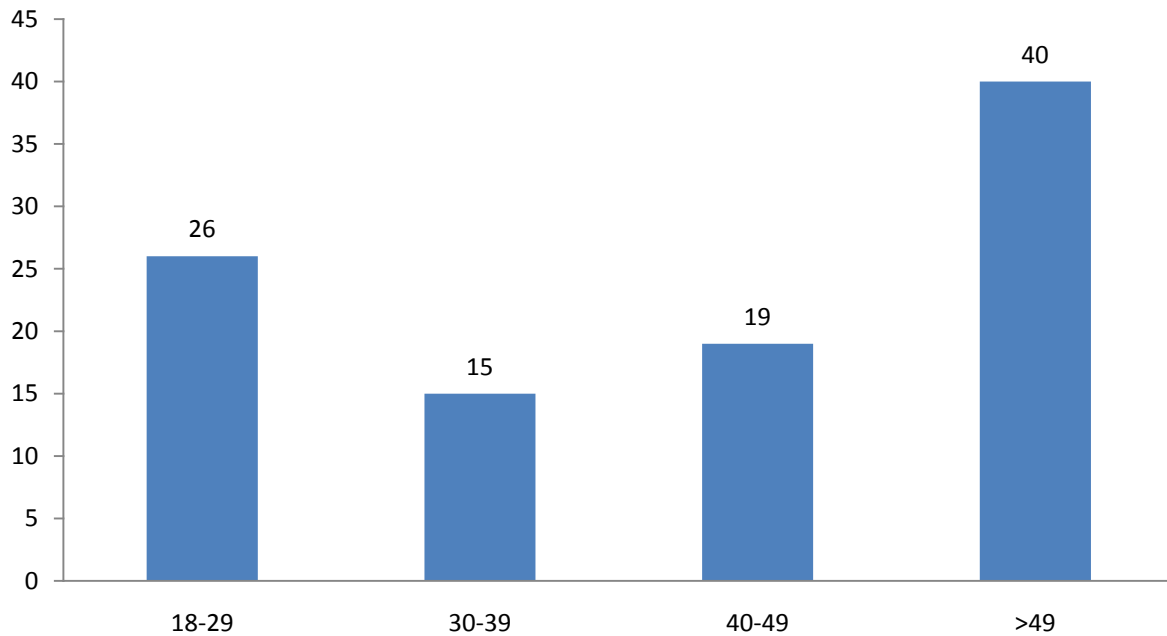
CPS reports indicate females were more often reported as subjects than males. Figure 20 presents the age ranges for female subjects in the United States and North Dakota whereas Figure 21 provides the general age population of adult females in North Dakota. In 2006, like their male counterparts, the population of subjects over the age of 49 is relatively small (3 percent); however, in the general population, females represent the largest age group (44 percent). Over three-quarters of female subjects of child maltreatment fall into the age ranges of 20-29 (38 percent in 2005 and 2006) and 30-39 (37 percent in 2005; 38 percent in 2006).

Figure 18. Percent of United States and North Dakota Male Perpetrators [Subjects] by Age



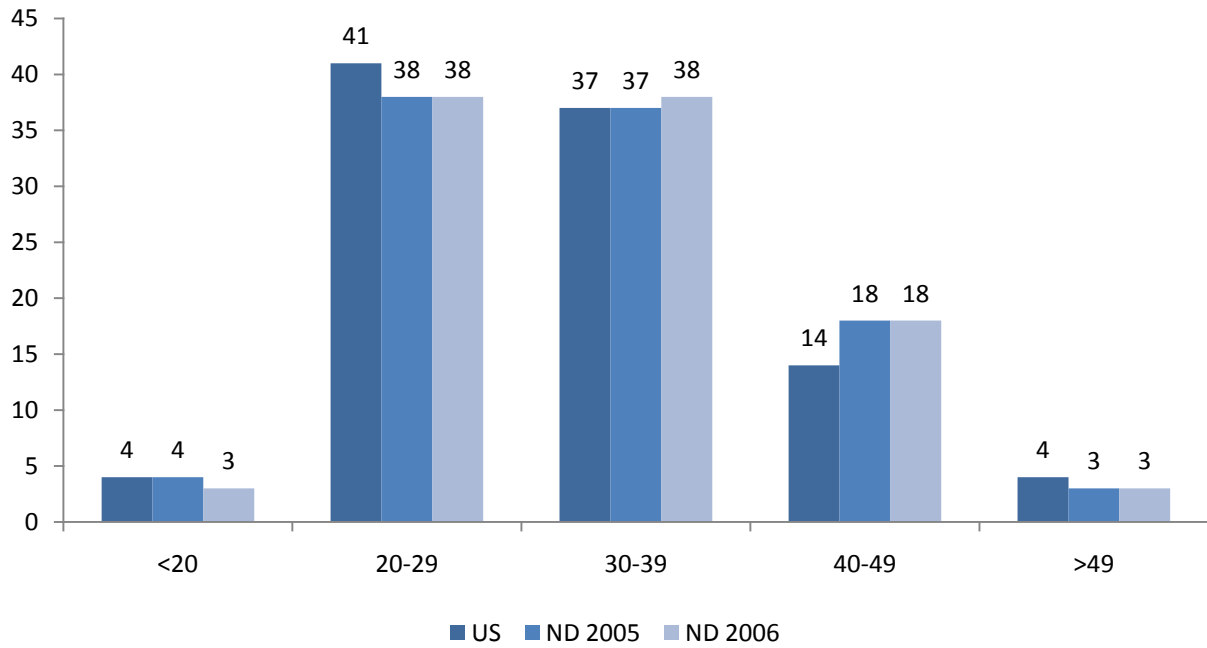
Adapted from NCANDS, 2005. AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=1,965) and 2006 (N=1,930).

Figure 19. Percent of North Dakota Adult Male General Population by Age in 2006



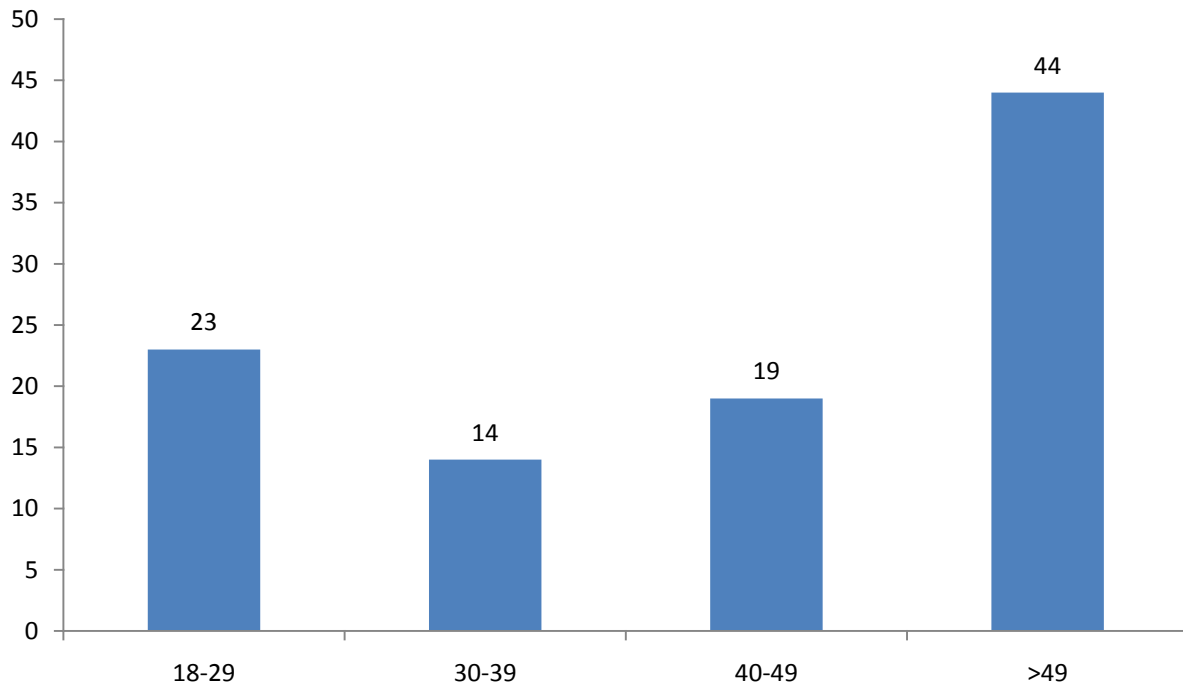
U.S. Census Bureau, Population by Single Year of Age: North Dakota, July 1, 2006 Estimate.

Figure 20. Percent of United States and North Dakota Female Perpetrators [Subjects] by Age



Adapted from NCANDS, 2005. AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=2,869) and 2006 (N=2,772).

Figure 21. Percent of North Dakota Adult Females in the General Population by Age in 2006

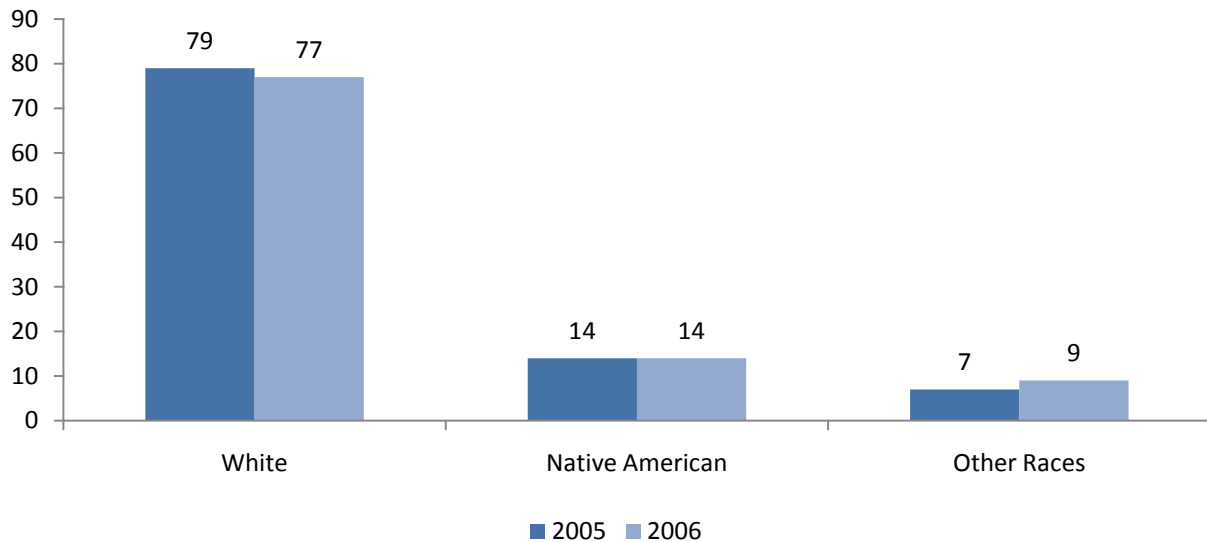


U.S. Census Bureau, Population by Single Year of Age: North Dakota, July 1, 2006 Estimate.

Subject Race

White adults constitute the majority (79 percent in 2005; 77 percent in 2006) of child abuse and neglect subjects (Figure 22), and white children are most often the victim (Figure 8). Native American subjects represent 14 percent of the subject population in both 2005 and 2006. Native American child victims account for 18 percent of all child and neglect victims (Figure 8).

Figure 22. Subject Race by Percent

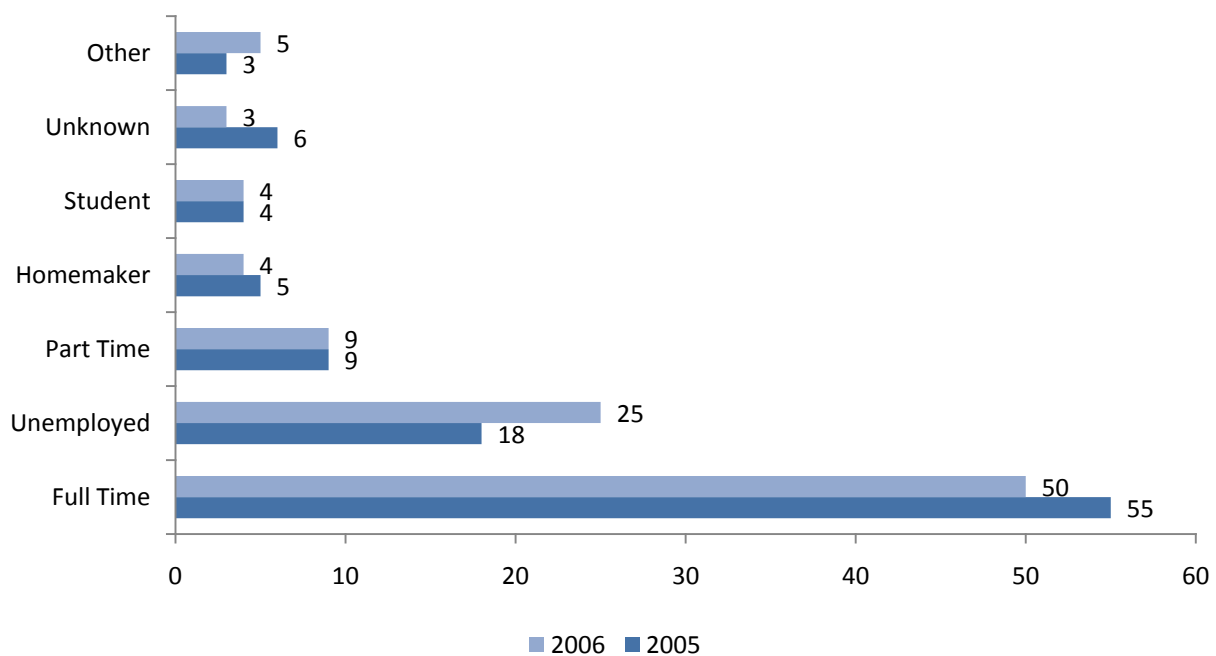


AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=5,405) and 2006 (N=5,104).

Subject Employment and Public Assistance Status

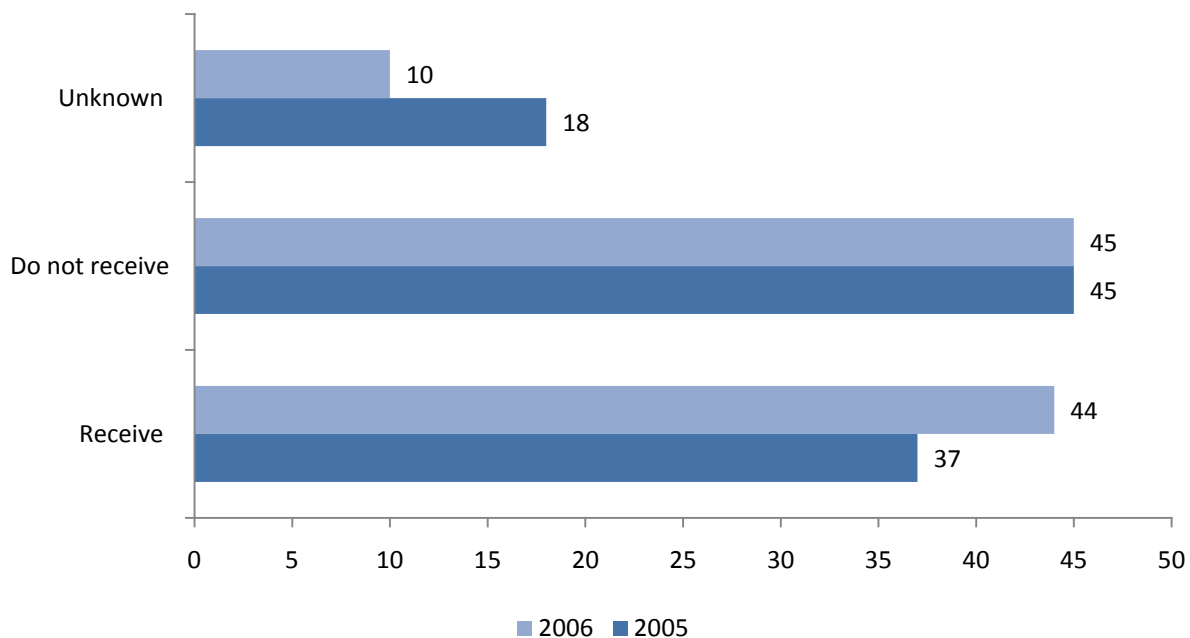
About half of reported subjects (55 percent in 2005; 50 percent in 2006) are employed full-time (Figure 23). In contrast, 18 percent in 2005, and 25 percent in 2006 of subjects were reported as unemployed. Public assistance status is relatively equally distributed between those that receive (37 percent in 2005; 44 percent in 2006) and do not receive (45 percent in 2005; 46 percent in 2006) services (Figure 24).

Figure 23. Percent of Subjects by Employment Status



AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=5,362) and 2006 (N=5,176).

Figure 24. Percent of Subjects by Public Assistance Status

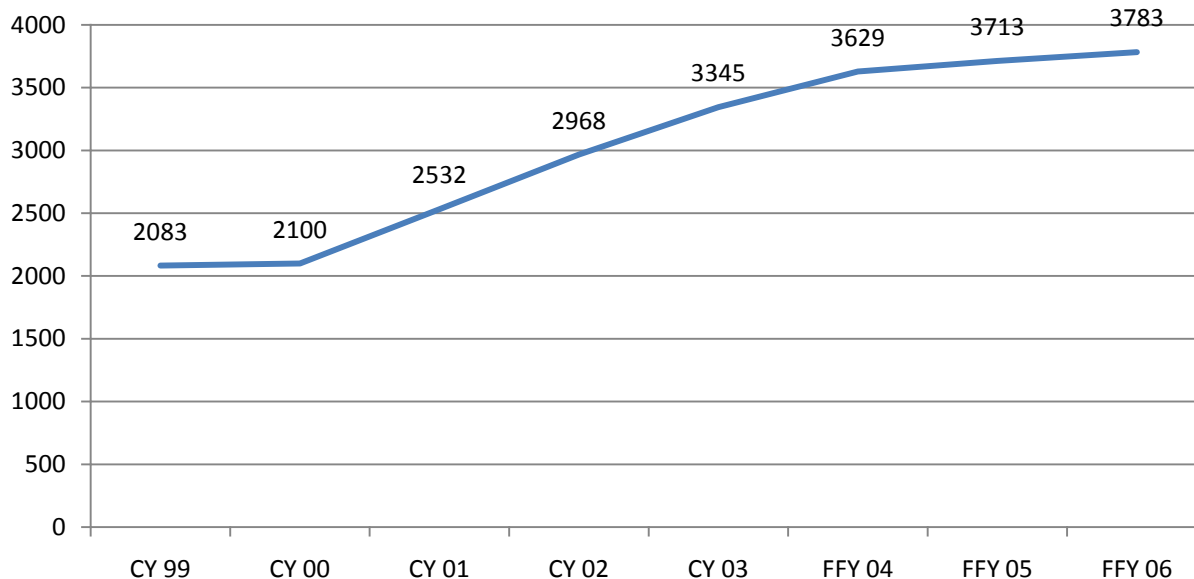


AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=5,362) and 2006 (N=5,176).

Administrative Assessment

An administrative assessment is the process of documenting reports of suspected child abuse or neglect that do not meet the criteria for a full CPS assessment. An administrative referral is the process of documenting the referral of reports of suspected child abuse or neglect that fall outside the jurisdiction of the county where the report is received. Figure 25 illustrates the gradual increase in the number of administrative assessment and referrals handled by CPS.

Figure 25. Number of Administrative Assessments and Referrals

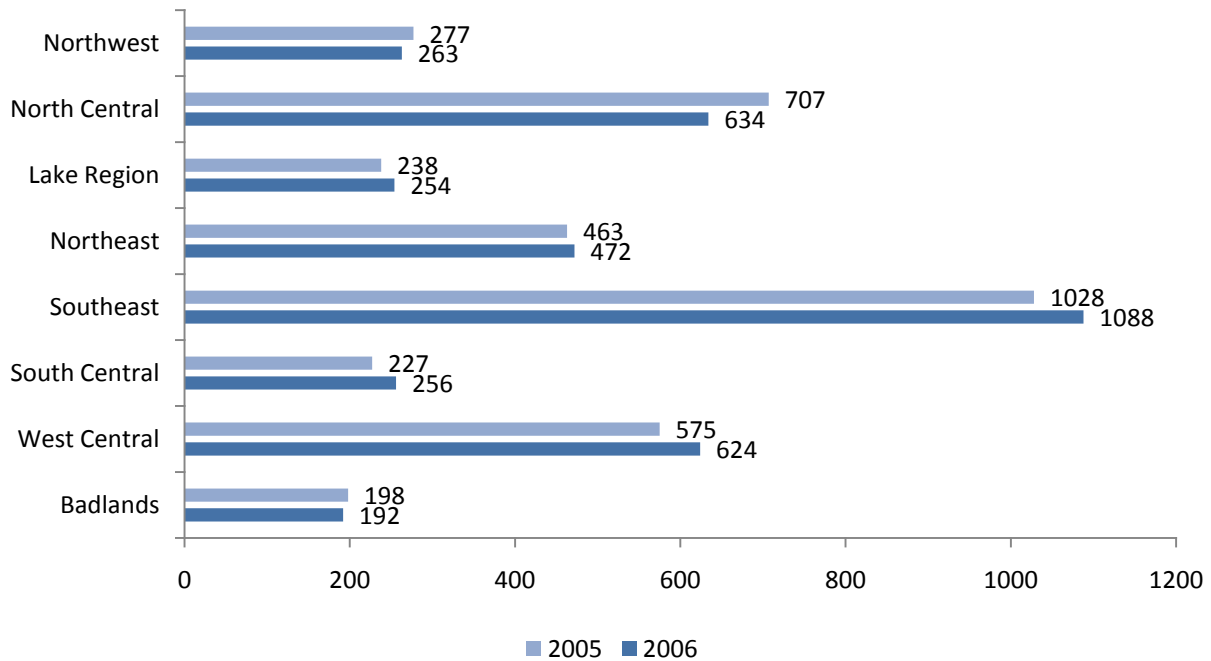


AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, CY 1999 - FFY 2006. CY=January 1-December 31. FFY=October 1-September 30.

Figure 26 separates the volume of administrative assessments and referrals by region in North Dakota. The Southeast region far surpasses other regions in sheer number of assessments and referrals, outweighing the Badlands, South Central, Lake Region, and Northwest regions by one-fourth.

The ten reported reasons for administrative assessments and referrals shown in Figure 27. An assessment terminated in progress was the most frequent reason for an administrative assessment. Two other common reasons are: 1) that the incident was reported in a county other than the one where the child is located, and 2) no credible reason for suspicion of child maltreatment is contained within the report.

Figure 26. Number of Administrative Assessments and Referrals by Region



AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=3,713) and 2006 (N=3,783).

Figure 27. Number of Administrative Assessments/Referrals by Reason



AAR Data Reporting System Child Abuse & Neglect, 2005 (N=3,651) and 2006 (N=3,711). Data was unavailable on 62 assessments in 2005 and 72 in 2006.

Foster Care

Introduction

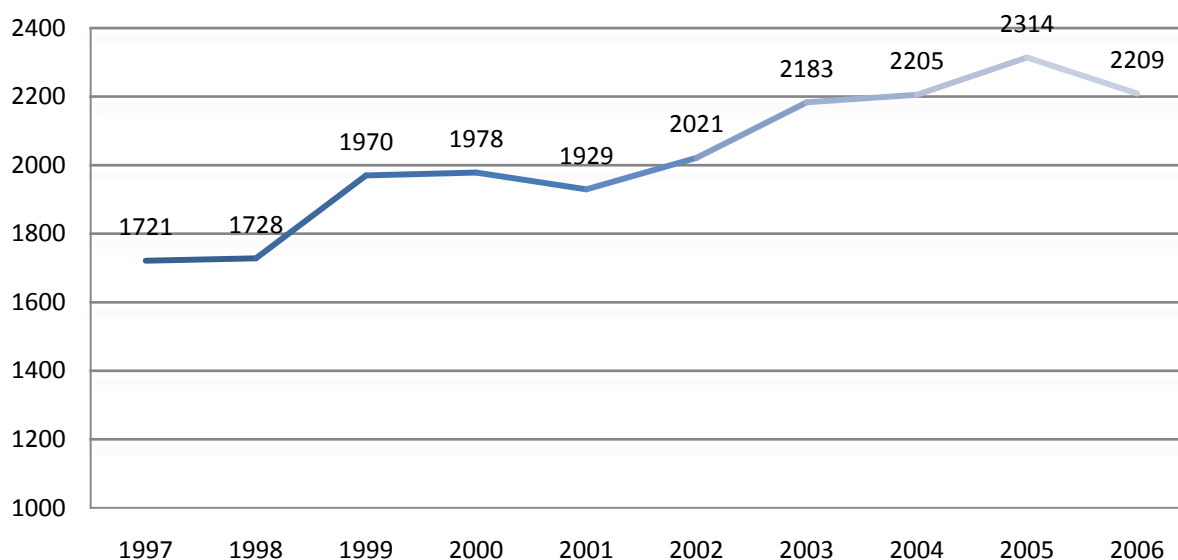
Foster care is 24 hour out-of-home care for children whose parents are unable, neglect, or refuse to provide for their children's needs. It includes shelter, security, safety, guidance and comfort. In nearly all cases, the child in care has been removed from home by a court order, with custody given to a public agency, such as the Division of Juvenile Services, County Social Services or Tribal Social Services. Foster care may be provided in a:

- ☐ Family foster home;
- ☐ Group home; and
- ☐ Residential child care facility.

North Dakota Foster Care Children

The number of children receiving foster care services annually almost doubled from 1,199 in 1990 to 2,209 in 2006 (Figure 28). The figures and tables depict the foster care child population either during the entire fiscal year or the first or last day of the fiscal year 2005 and 2006. Figure 27 indicates trends in the number of unduplicated children. Foster care children were not double counted if they were in and out of foster care more than once during the FFY. The data were compiled for FFYs 2005 and 2006 and based on the automated system, Comprehensive Child Welfare Information and Payment System (CCWIPS). This bulletin compares data from FFY 2005 (October 1, 2004 to September 30, 2005) with the most recent FFY (October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006). CCWIPS is the computer program utilized by workers in the field offices. A series of queries and reports are generated from CCWIPS for the federal government through Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS).

Figure 28. Unduplicated Number of North Dakota Children in Foster Care

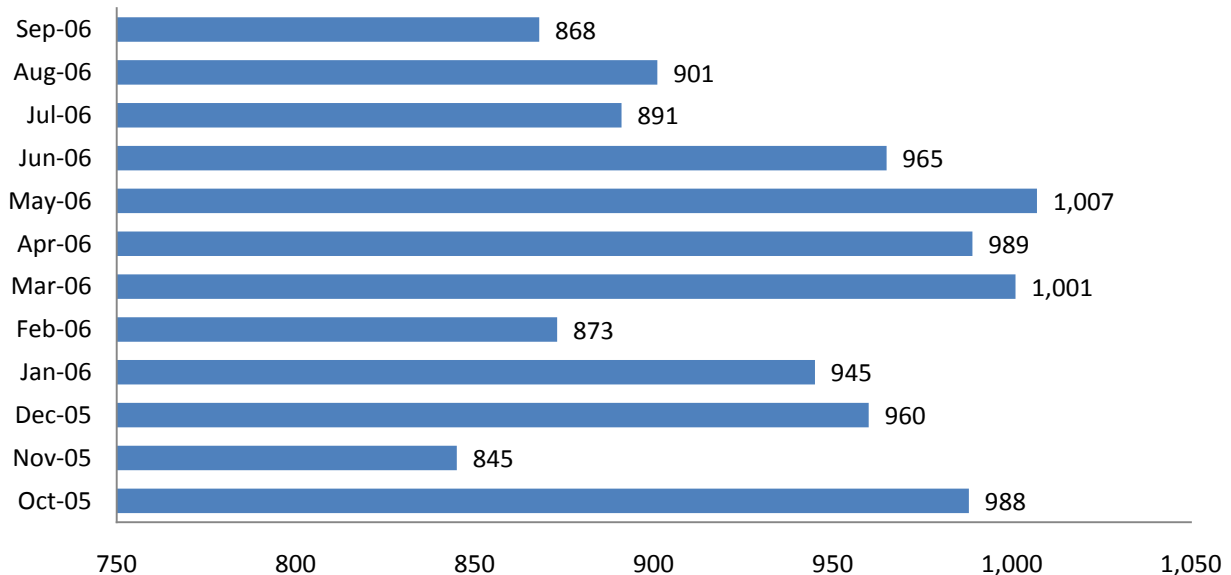


AFCARS, 1997-2006. Note: The increase from 1998 to 1999 is reflective of the implementation of CCWIPS, not an increase in the number of children in care.

Foster Care Maintenance Payments

Figure 29 reports exactly how many children were supported by foster care maintenance payments from October 2005 through September 2006. The aggregate data includes both standard and specialized payments to the foster care providers for the care of foster care children. Standard foster care maintenance payment rates are evaluated and set by the North Dakota Department of Human Services. The rates are meant to reimburse foster parents for the cost of providing care, including the cost of food, clothing, shelter, daily supervision, school supplies, a child's personal incidentals, liability insurance with respect to the child, and reasonable travel to the child's home for visitation. The children are tabulated on a monthly basis. The top bar in Figure 29 indicates that 868 children were subsidized by foster care payments in September 2006. The data shows the number of children benefitting from maintenance payments. For example, between the months of April and May 2006, 18 additional children were supported.

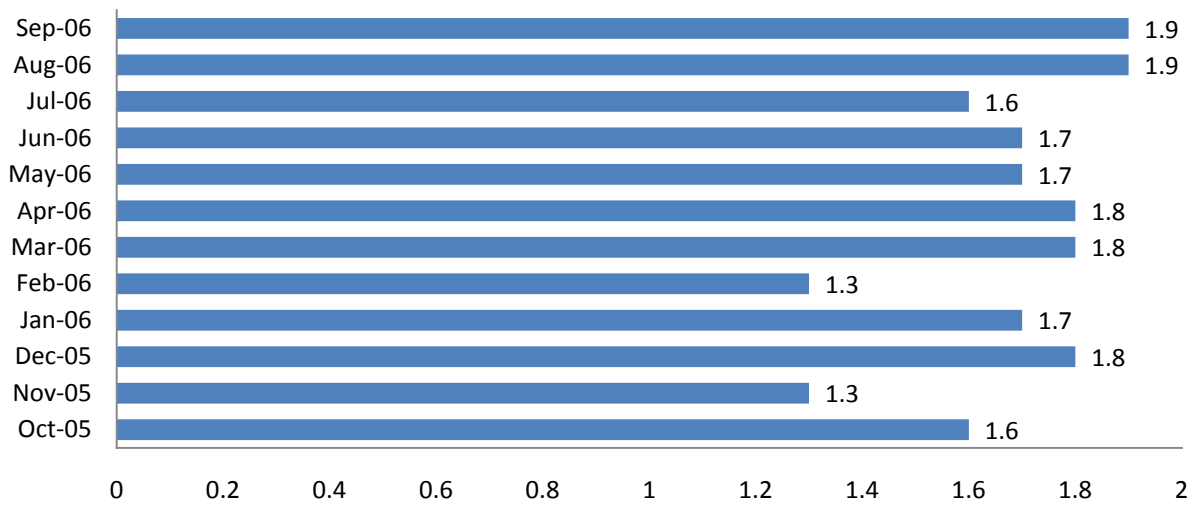
Figure 29. Number of Foster Care Children Benefitting From Foster Care Maintenance Payments



ND Department of Human Services 2005-2007 Biennium Foster Care (Maintenance Only) Total Unduplicated Caseload.

Figure 30 exemplifies the total monthly maintenance payment expenditures. The largest expenditures were in August and September of 2006. There is not a direct relationship between foster care expenditures and the number of child recipients of this support. For example, if the foster care maintenance payment for a child is paid out in the month of May but the services also included payments retroactive from March and April, then the dollar amount in May will reflect the expenditures for all three months. Maintenance payments vary for each child depending on the type of placement. Placing children in a facility is the most expensive while relative foster care placement is the most cost effective.

Figure 30. Expenditures for Foster Care Maintenance Payments (In Millions of Dollars)

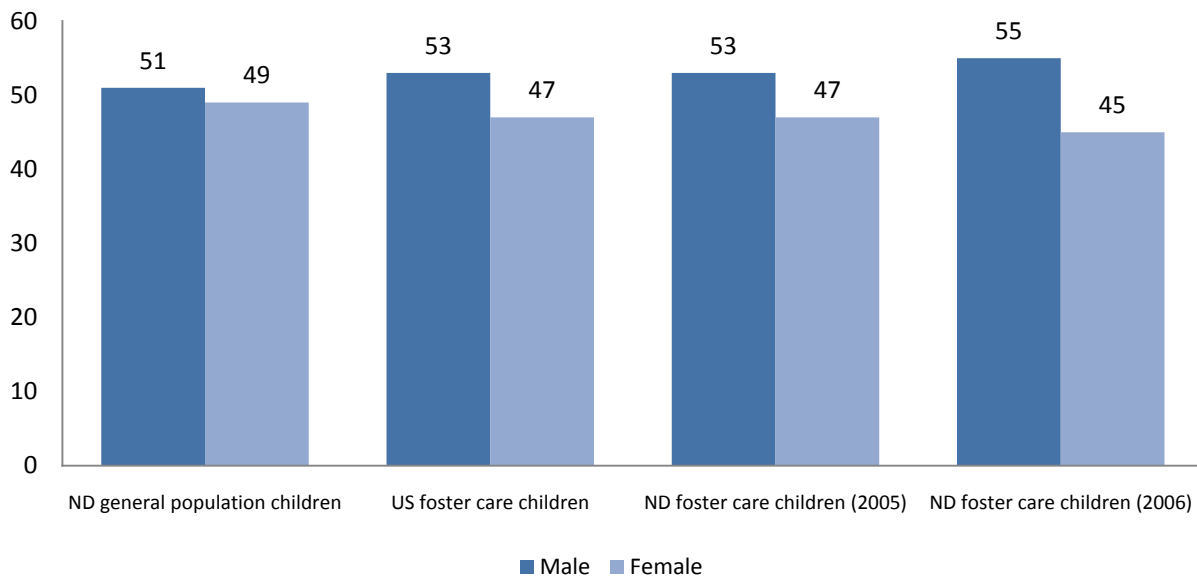


ND Department of Human Services 2005-2007 Biennium Foster Care (Maintenance Only) Total Expenditures.

Gender and Foster Care

Is a particular gender disproportionately represented in the foster care population? Figure 31 compares the general child population, by percent, in the State of North Dakota to the foster care population in the United States and North Dakota. Males have a slight edge over females in the general child population; however, there is a sizable gap between genders in the foster care population. The gender of the national foster care population mirrors that of North Dakota's foster care population. Although the males increased in percent from 2005 (53 percent) to 2006 (55 percent), there was a decrease in the population from 1,226 in 2005 to 1,215 in 2006 (Table 12). This is due to the larger foster care population in 2005.

Figure 31. Children by Gender in North Dakota General Population, Foster Care, and United States Foster Care



U.S. Census Bureau, Population by Single Year of Age; North Dakota, July 1, 2006 Estimate. AFCARS, 2005 and 2006.
 ND children N=144,934; US foster care N=513,000 (on 9/30/2005); ND foster care (2005) N=2,314; ND foster care (2006) N=2,209

Table 12 provides the number and percent of male and female children in foster care. Male children were more likely to be in the foster care system and less likely than their female counterparts to be adopted.

Table 12. Gender Disparity in North Dakota Foster Care

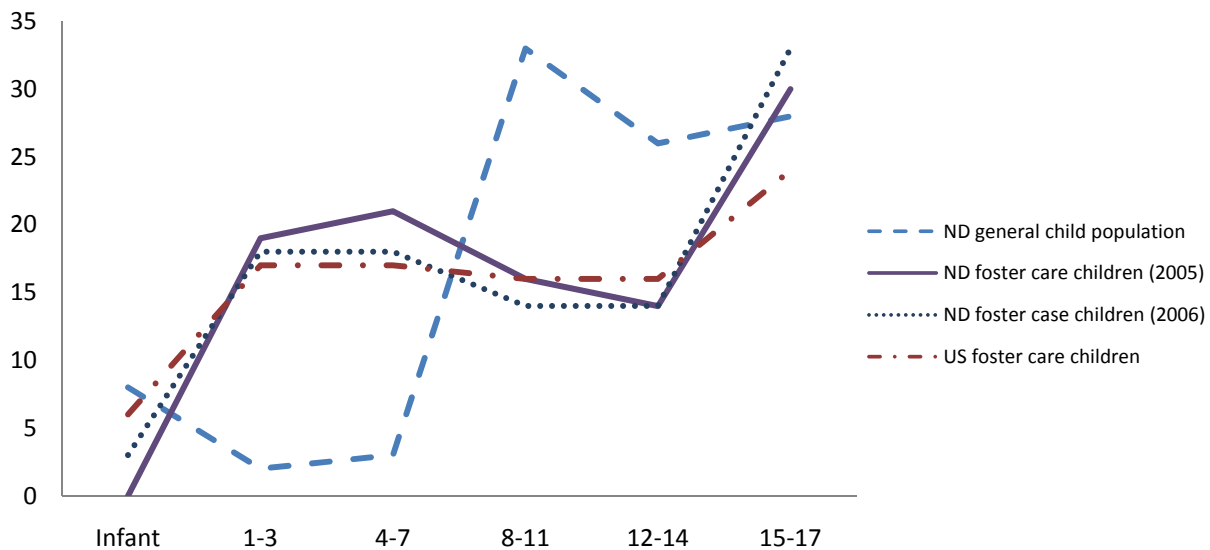
	2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%
Male	1,226	53	1,215	55
Female	1,088	47	994	45
Total	2,314	100	2,209	100

AFCARS, 2005 and 2006.

Age and Foster Care

Figure 32 portrays the percent of children by age range in the North Dakota general and foster care populations and the national foster care population. There was a disparity between the North Dakota general child population (5 percent) ages 1 through 7 and the North Dakota foster care system (40 percent in 2005; 36 percent in 2006) for ages 1 through 7. This may be indicative of the number of vulnerable young children being removed from their home. Additionally, in the 8-11 age range the percent of all foster care children decreased while the percent of children in the North Dakota general population peaked. The largest groups of foster care children, nationally and in North Dakota, fell into the 15-17 age range. In 2006, 2.5 percent of North Dakota children age 15-17 were in foster care.

Figure 32. Percent of Children by Age Range in North Dakota General Child Population, North Dakota Foster Care Population and United States Foster Care Population



U.S. Census Bureau, Population by Single Year of Age: ND, July 1, 2006 Estimate; AFCARS, 2005 and 2006. ND children N=144,934; US foster care N=480,004 (on 9/30/2005); ND foster care (2005) N=1,883; ND foster care (2006) N=2,047

Table 13. North Dakota Foster Care Children by Age Range

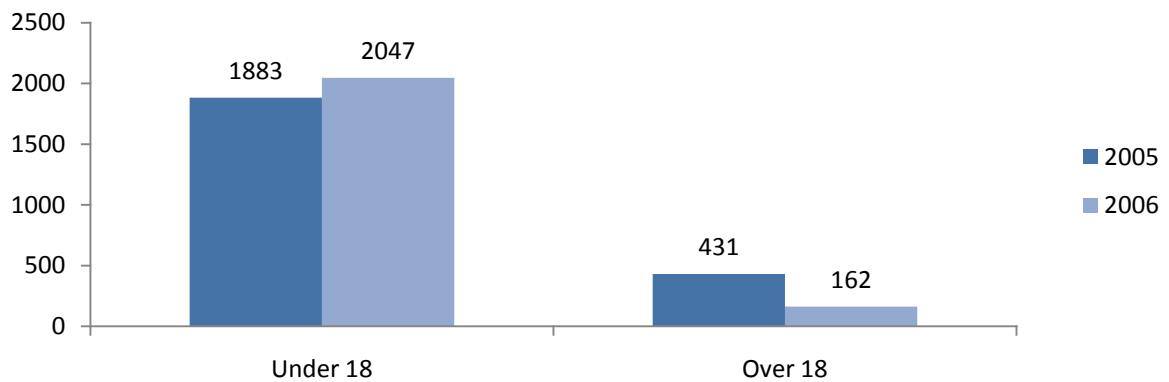
Table 13 extends on the line graph (Figure 32) by matching numbers with the percent of children by age range. There was little change in percent from one year to the next but a relatively profound change in number of children.

	2005		2006	
	#	%	#	%
Infant	0	0	70	3
Age 1-3	356	19	360	18
Age 4-7	399	21	364	18
Age 8-11	304	16	295	14
Age 12-14	258	14	291	14
Age 15-17	566	30	667	33
Total	1,883	100	2,047	100

AFCARS, 2005 and 2006.

Figure 33 divides the North Dakota foster care population into children under and over age 18. If children are over the age of 18, they can remain in the family foster care system as long as they are a full-time student. An eighteen-year-old foster care child is required to have lived with the family, prior to turning eighteen, for six months or longer. These over age children are considered to be in the child foster care system. While 19 percent of the foster care population was over the age of 18 in 2005, this population declined by 12 percent in 2006. A lag in case closures due to emancipation by regional offices may explain this decrease in numbers.

Figure 33. North Dakota Foster Care Children



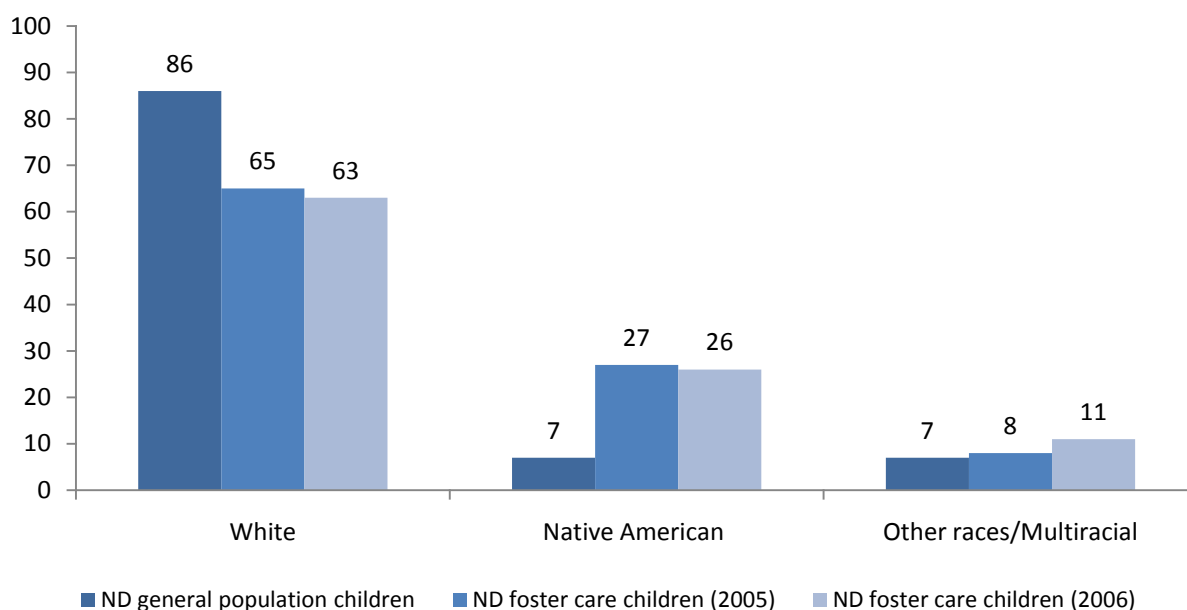
AFCARS , 2005 (N=2,314) and 2006 (N=2,209).

Foster Care Disparities by Race

Figure 34 depicts the racial designations for the general child population in North Dakota and the unduplicated number of foster care children in North Dakota by racial category. Native American children made up a disproportionate number of children in foster care placements. Although only 7 percent (10,145) of the child population in North Dakota is Native American, Native American children accounted for 26 percent of the foster care population in 2006 (Figure 34). Roughly two-thirds of the foster care population identified themselves as White and made up 86 percent of children in the North Dakota general population.

The category of ‘other’ races includes Asian, Black, and Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian children. Children were only counted in one racial category. If a child was identified as bi-racial (Native American and Black), he was counted once in the ‘other races/multiracial’ category but not in the two individual race categories. The gender, age, and race demographics of foster care children remained constant during FFY 2005 and 2006. This foster care demographic data can be compared to adoption demographic data during the same timeframe.

Figure 34. Percent of Children by Race in the North Dakota General Child and Foster Care Populations

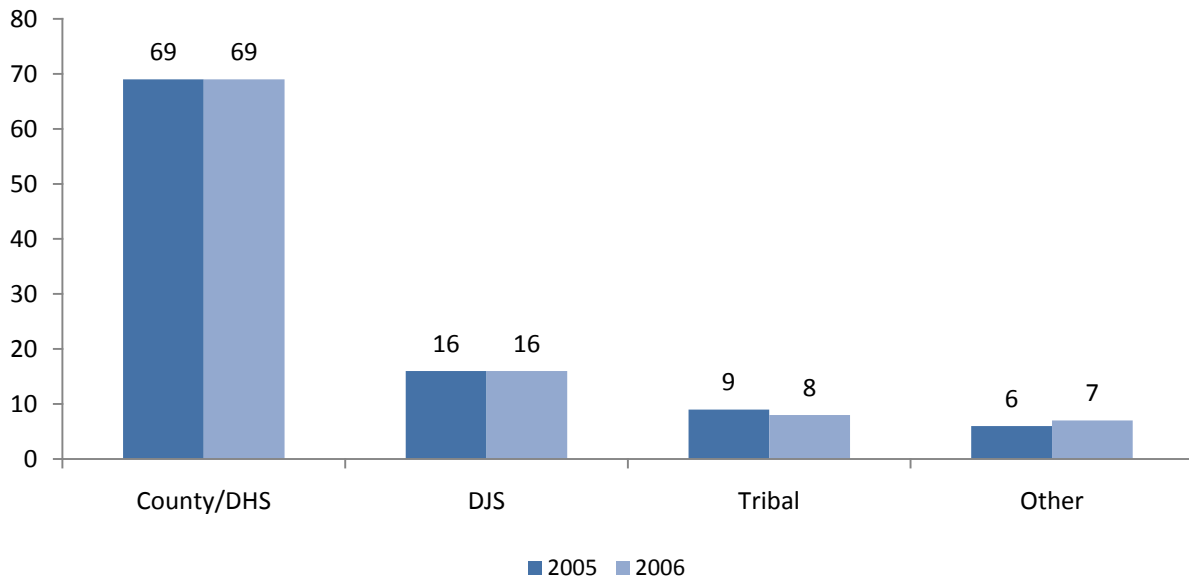


U.S. Census Bureau, Children Characteristics, 2005 American Community Survey. AFCARS, 2005 and 2006.

Custody and Placement Types

Who has custody of foster care children once the court orders a child be removed from the custody of the parents or primary caregivers? The court grants custody to the agencies listed in Figure 35. For example, 69 percent, or seven out of ten children, were in the custody of a county or the North Dakota Department of Human Services in FFY 2005 and 2006. The Division of Juvenile Services (DJS) is responsible for the custody of delinquent and unruly children placed in its care by the courts. A variety of resources and placement options are available for troubled adolescents in the care of the Division of Juvenile Services. Caution must be used when viewing the numbers of children under tribal custody. The numbers were understated due to unavailable data on a population of children under tribal custody. This report includes data on children benefitting from IV-E monies.

Figure 35. Percent of North Dakota Foster Care Children by Custodian



AFCARS, 2005 (N=2,314) and 2006 (N=2,209).

Table 14 further details the number of North Dakota foster care children in the custody of a county or Department of Human Services by placement type. The total numbers exclude 65 children in 2005 and 56 in 2006 that were no longer in placements due to aging out of foster care.

Table 14. Number of Children in the Custody of County/DHS by Foster Care Placement Types

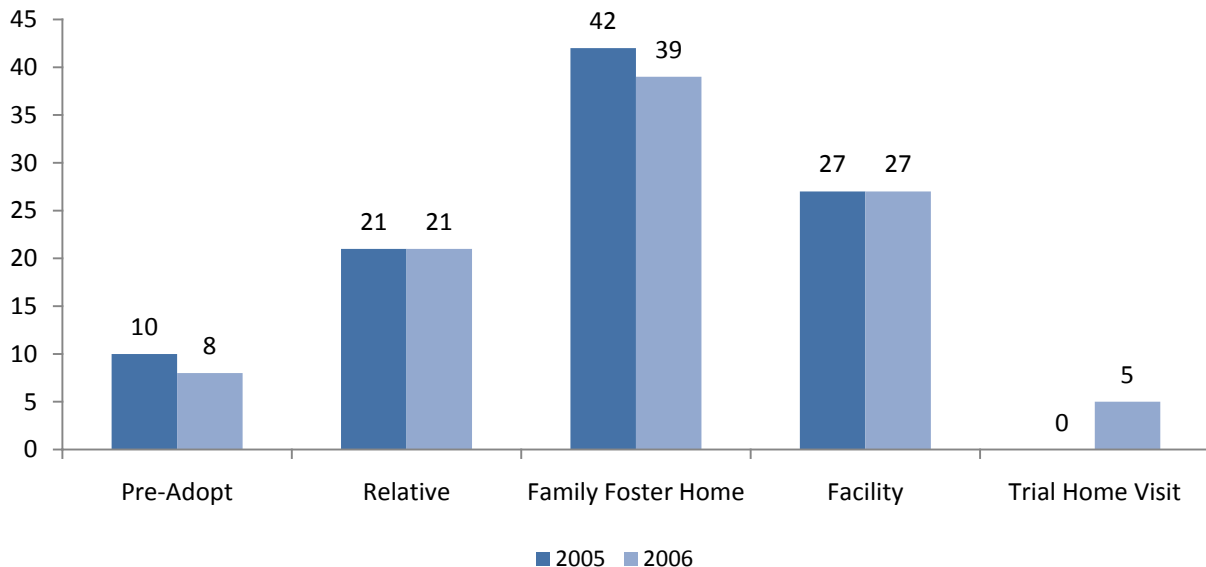
Placement Type	2005	2006
Family Placements: Pre-Adoptive Home	228	252
Relative Placement	507	569
Family Foster Care	896	762
Facility Placements: Group Home	96	95
Facility	552	510
Total	2,279	2,188

AFCARS, 2005 and 2006.

On October 1, 2004, there were 1,232 children in North Dakota foster care. There were 1,082 admissions and 838 discharges during FFY 2005. The following year, there was a slight increase in the population on the first day of the fiscal year (1,269). Admissions declined by 132 children in FFY 2006 from the preceding year. Child discharges also declined to 792 in FFY 2006. Figure 36 is a snapshot of the percent of North Dakota foster care children by placement type on the last day of FFY 2005 and 2006. In FFY 2006, 64 children underwent trial home placements. Due to a change in coding, prior to 2006 field staff rarely documented trial home visits as a placement option. Instead, trial home visits would have been coded under several other placement categories.

Of the placement types, relative placements were the most inexpensive and least restrictive option whereas facilities were the most expensive and restrictive for foster care children. Children and Family Services strive to place children in the least restrictive environment. This goal equates to maximizing relative placements while minimizing facility placements.

Figure 36. Percent of North Dakota Foster Care Children by Placement Type on Last Day of FFY



ND Child and Family Services Review Data Profile: June 29, 2007. ND children in placement 2005 (N=1,458) and 2006 (N=1,372). The percentages exclude cases (N=18 in FFY 2005 and 2006) in which a current placement setting was not coded in CCWIPS.

Family Foster Care Providers

Family foster care providers play an integral role in the lives of foster care children. The three types of foster care homes are:

- ☐ **Family Homes - County.** Most children in care in North Dakota are in regular family foster homes. Placement may last from a number of days to several months. The child attends school in the community while participating with the foster family in their daily activities.
- ☐ **Therapeutic Foster Care.** Therapeutic foster parents receive extra training and supports as children in therapeutic care often have additional behavioral or emotional needs. The child may transition into a regular foster home after behavioral and other issues are stabilized. The average length of stay is 8-9 months.

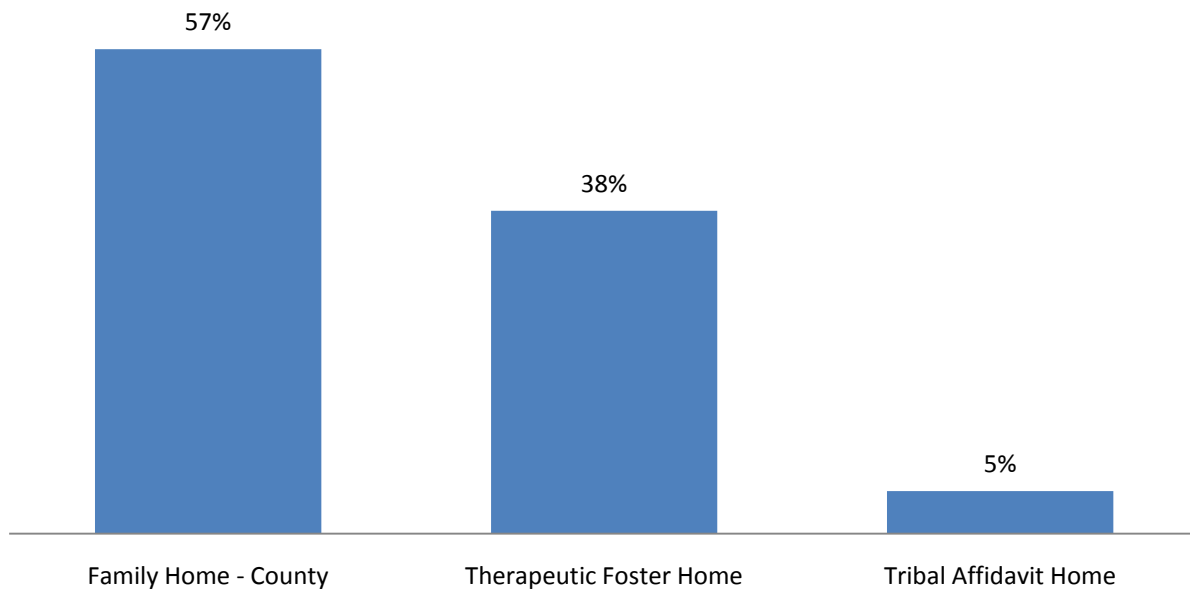
❑ **Tribal Affidavit Homes.** American Indian foster families can offer the child a chance to remain a part of the community where they continue to learn about their cultural history. Tribal Social and Child Welfare Services license foster homes and places American Indian children.

Family foster home-county providers account for more than half (57 percent) of all family foster homes (Figure 37). Five percent of all foster care providers are identified as tribal homes. To qualify as a tribal home, at least one of the foster parents must be enrolled or eligible for enrollment in a recognized Indian tribe, Alaska Native, or member of a Regional Corporation.

Family foster homes may be composed of more than one foster parent. The data in this section includes information on each currently licensed parent even though they may share the same provider number. Foster parents between the ages of 40 and 49 make up the largest percent (38 percent) of family foster care providers (Figure 38). White family foster care providers account for the majority (95 percent) all North Dakota family foster care providers (Figure 39).

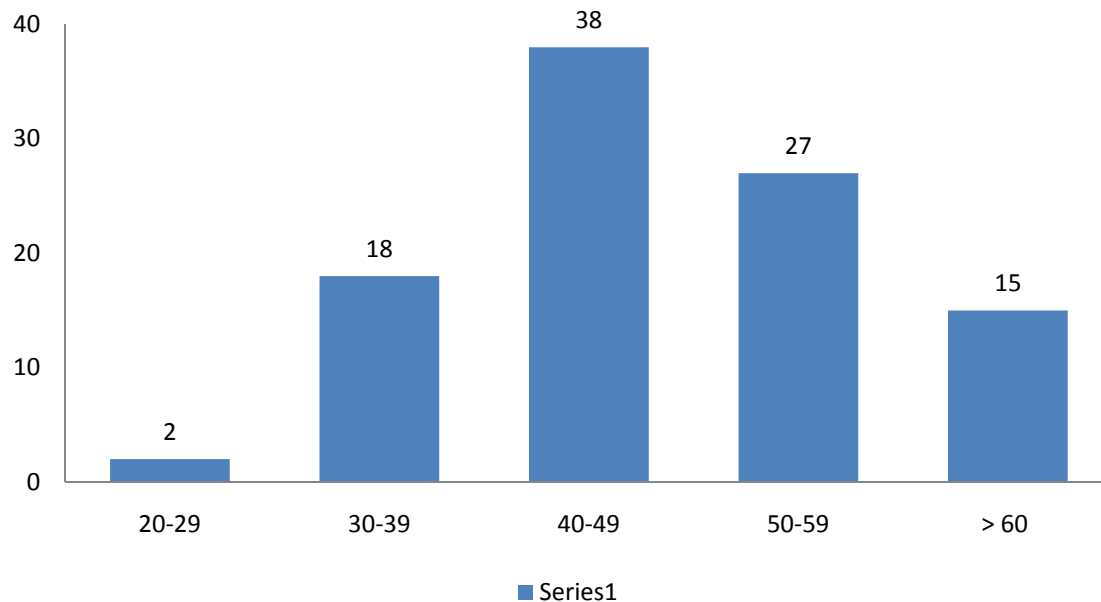
Map 1 (page 46) provides a geographical view of the number and location of county family homes. Therapeutic homes are illustrated by county in Map 2 (page 47). Map 3 (page 48) depicts the number and vicinity of tribal affidavit homes in North Dakota.

Figure 37. Percent of North Dakota Family Foster Provider Homes by Type



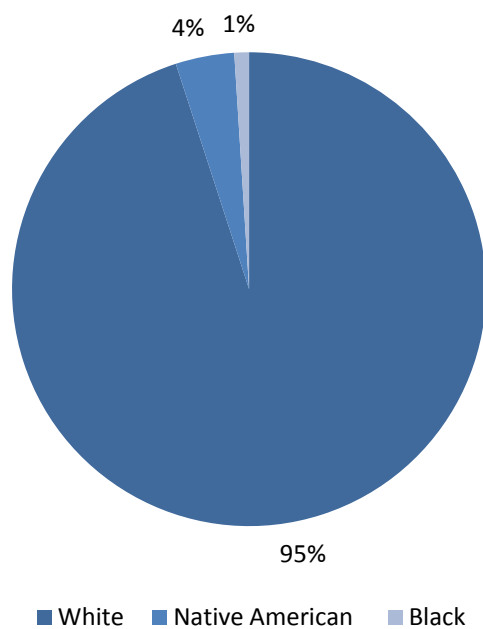
CCWIPS, October 15, 2007 (N=967).

Figure 38. Percent of Foster Care Providers by Age Range



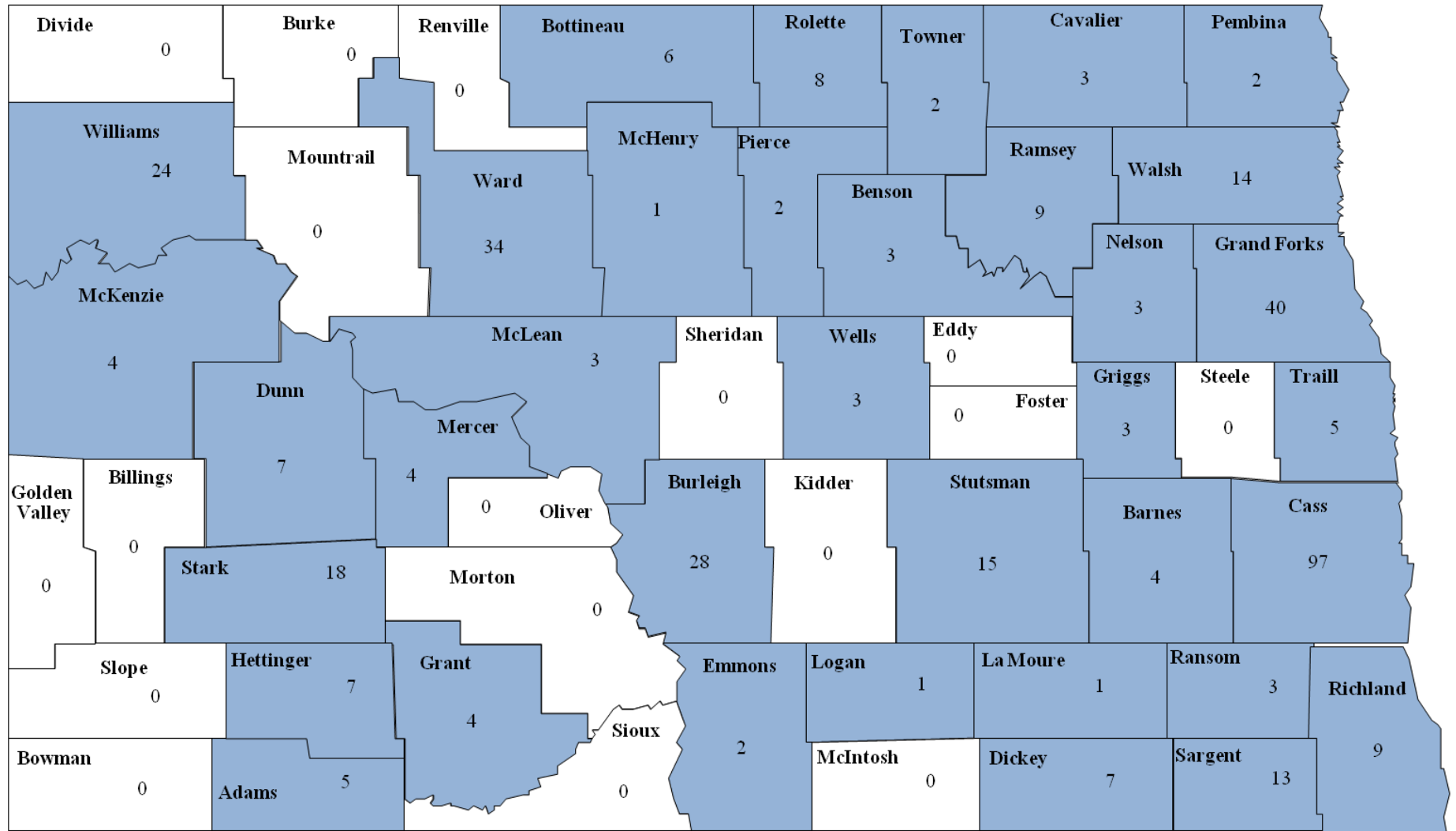
CCWIPS, October 15, 2007 (N=293).

Figure 39. Percent of Foster Care Providers by Race

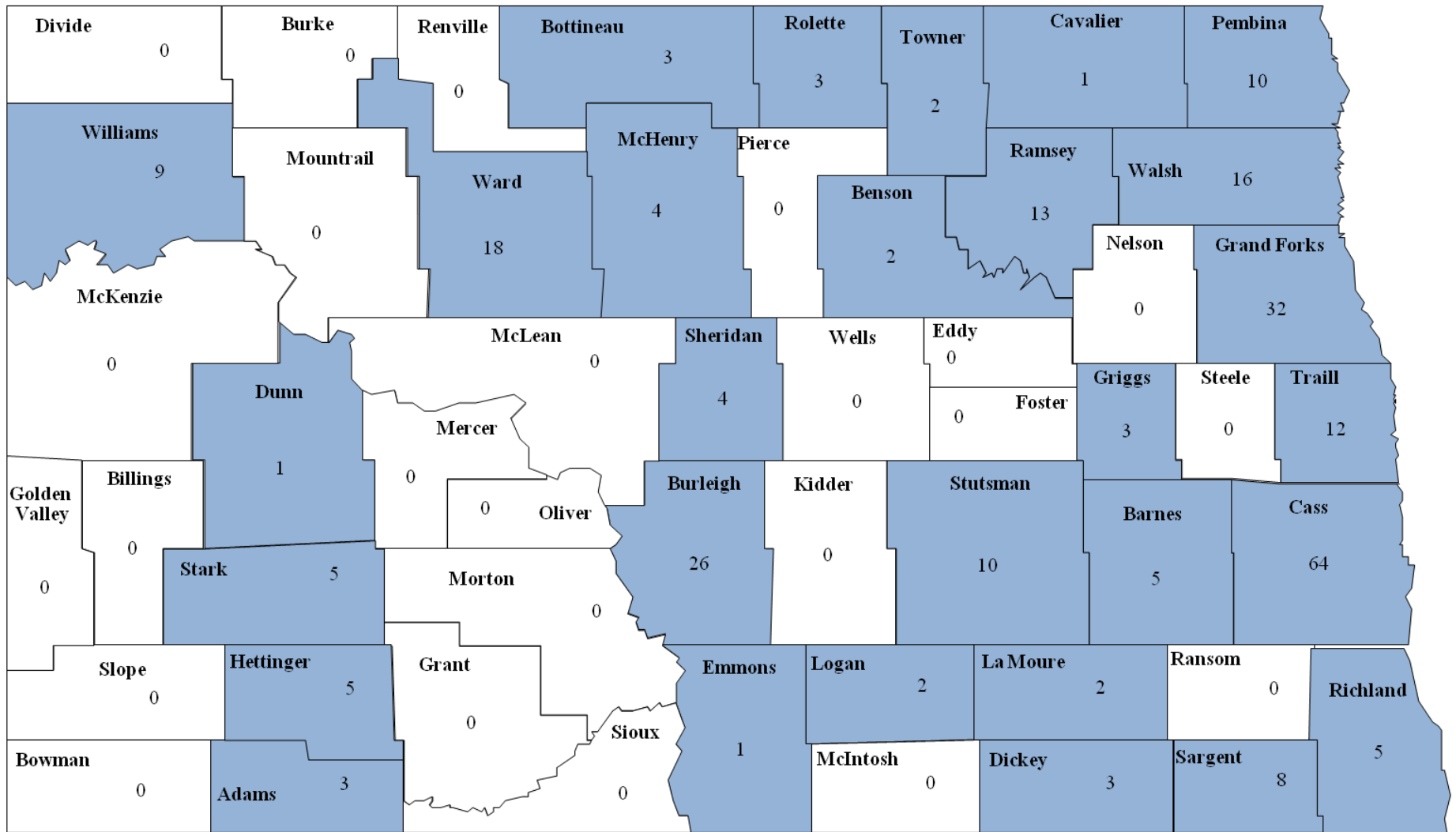


CCWIPS, October 15, 2007 (N=292).

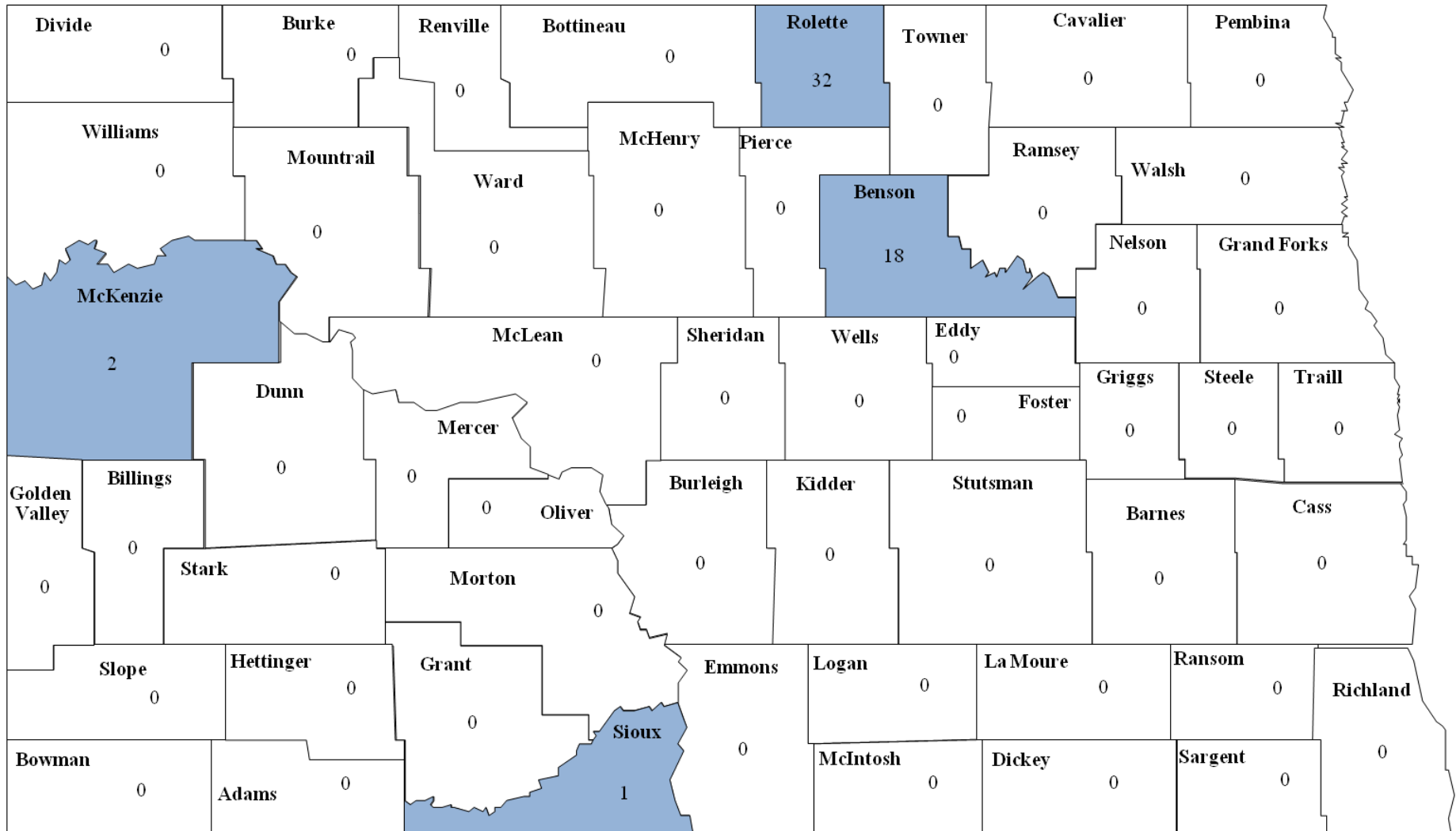
Map 1. Number of North Dakota Family Foster Home-County by County



Map 2. Number of North Dakota Therapeutic Homes by County



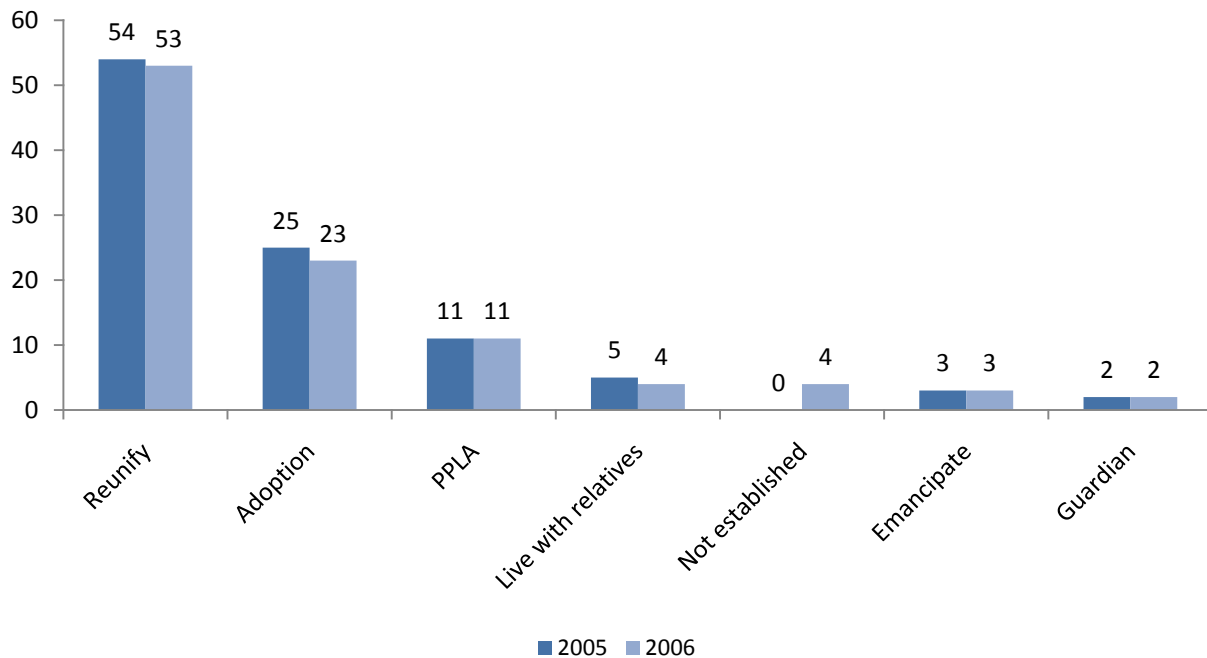
Map 3. Number of Tribal Affidavit Homes by County



Permanency Goals and Discharge Reason

What were the permanency goals for the children who were in foster care at the end of each fiscal year? The overriding permanency goal is reunification with the parents and/or primary caregivers, as shown in Figure 40 (54 percent in 2005; 53 percent in 2006). Adoption, the second most prevalent permanency goal (25 percent in 2005; 23 percent in 2006), includes both relative and non-relative adoptions. Planned permanent living arrangements (PPLA) is a permanency goal which generally involves planning for an alternative living arrangement for foster care children over the age of 16.

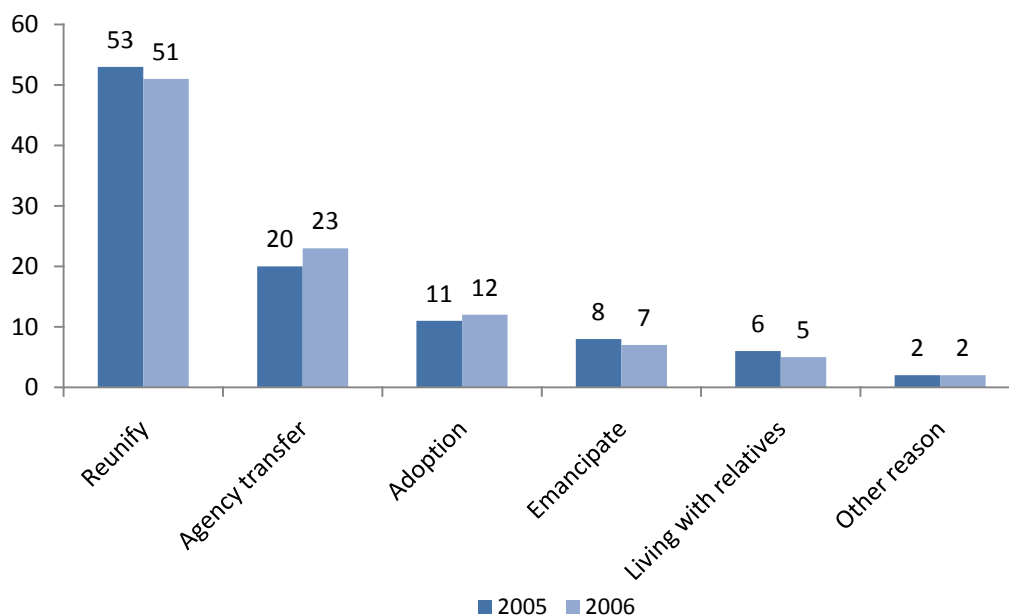
Figure 40. Percent of North Dakota Foster Care Children by Permanency Goal on Last Day of FFY



AFCARS, 2005 and 2006. The percentages exclude records without a coded permanency goal, 2005 (N=73) and 2006 (N=62).

For those children who were discharged during the FFYs 2005 and 2006, over half (53 percent; 51 percent, respectively) reunified with their families. Figure 41 depicts the discharge reasons in six categories. Agency transfer is a transfer to another agency such as a child transitioning from one county to another or one county to DJS. At the end of each fiscal year, there were 87 (2005) and 96 (2006) cases closed by the worker due to adoption. Some children (7 percent in 2006) reach the age of majority and remain in the foster care system (Figure 33). Children living with relatives (5 percent in 2006) reside with other family members outside of their immediate family. Guardianship, runaways, and the death of a child are included in the 'other reason' category.

Figure 41. Percent of North Dakota Foster Care Children by Discharge Reason on Last Day of FFY



AFCARS, 2005 (N=816) and 2006 (N=786). The percentages exclude records without a coded discharge reason, 2005 (N=22) and 2006 (N=6).

Tables 15 and 16 depict the relationship between the permanency goal and discharge reason for children who exited foster care for each year. The permanency goal, or case plan goal, listed in this table is data obtained from the AFCARS. This is one of two concurrent case plan goals for a child. The automated system, CCWIPS, allows two fields for caseworkers to enter in a case plan goal. Children may work on two concurrent goals with neither considered to be the overriding goal. Only one case plan goal field was utilized when viewing the following table. Of the 432 children with a permanency goal of reunification in FFY 2005, 310 (72 percent) were reunified. In FFY 2006, 299 (68 percent) of the 439 children with a goal of reunification attained their permanency goal. A significant number of foster care children, discharged during FFY 2006, had reunification as a permanency goal (101; 23 percent) yet were ultimately discharged with the reason of agency transfer. Four percent (17) of foster care child in FFY 2006 had the goal of parental reunification with the discharge outcome of living with other relatives.

Table 15. Discharge Reason by Permanency Goal for Foster Care Children in FFY 2005

Permanency Goal	Discharge Reason								Total
	Reunify	Agency Transfer	Adoption	Emancipate	Living with relatives	Guardianship	Runaway	Death	
Reunify	310	77	0	11	22	4	7	1	432
PPLA	7	17	0	16	5	0	1	0	46
Adoption	1	2	87	2	1	0	0	0	93
Emancipate	7	23	0	34	0	0	1	1	66
Living with relatives	3	10	0	2	6	0	0	0	21
Guardianship	1	13	0	0	2	0	0	0	16
Total	329	142	87	65	36	4	9	2	674

AFCARS, 2005 (N=674). Note: Data was unavailable on the relationship between permanency goal and discharge reason on 142 cases. This means there was no data entered in CCWIPS for one or both variables.

Table 16. Discharge Reason by Permanency Goal for Foster Care Children in FFY 2006

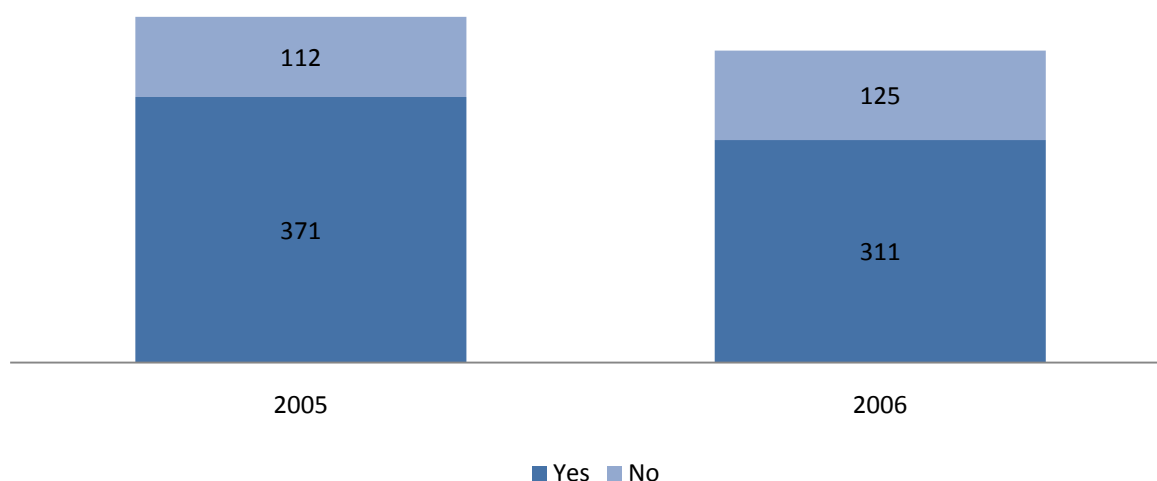
Permanency Goal	Discharge Reason								Total
	Reunify	Agency Transfer	Adoption	Emancipate	Living with relatives	Guardianship	Runaway	Death	
Reunify	299	101	0	10	17	3	8	1	439
PPLA	12	20	0	23	2	0	3	0	60
Adoption	1	2	96	0	0	0	0	1	100
Emancipate	3	16	0	22	1	0	0	0	42
Living with relatives	7	7	0	1	5	0	0	0	20
Guardianship	3	18	0	0	4	1	0	0	26
Total	325	164	96	56	29	4	11	2	687

AFCARS, 2006 (N=687). Note: Data was unavailable on the relationship between permanency goal and discharge reason on 99 cases. This means there was no data entered in CCWIPS for one or both variables.

Reunification

Reunification is the predominant case plan goal and discharge reason for foster care children. In 2005 and 2006, 371 (77 percent) and 311 (71 percent) children, respectively, returned home to their parents or primary caregiver within one year from the latest home removal. The latest home removal may be the first or one of a series of removals for a child. Figure 42 illustrates the number of North Dakota foster care children and their reunification status.

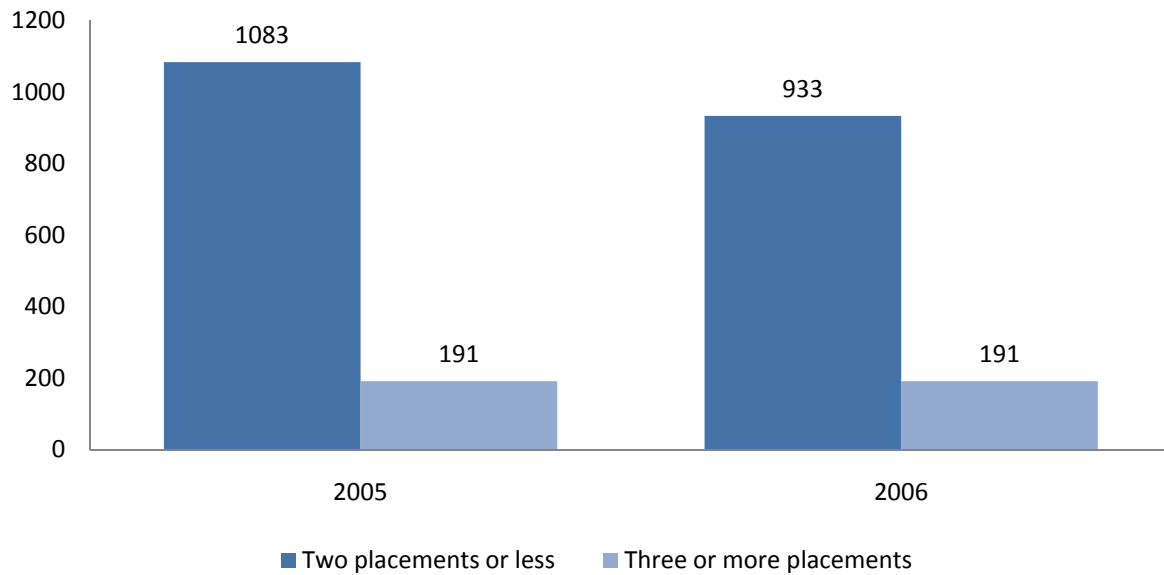
Figure 42. Number of North Dakota Foster Care Children and Reunification Status in Less Than a Year



AFCARS, 2005 (N=483) and 2006 (N=436).

Figure 43 provides prior placement numbers for the children who successfully reunified with their parents within one year (Figure 42). The majority of this reunified population (85 percent in 2005; 83 percent in 2006) had two or fewer placements in the foster care system before reunification. In FFY 2005 and 2006, 191 children had three or more placements within one year of the latest home removal.

Figure 43. Number of Reunified Foster Care Children by Number of Prior Placement Settings

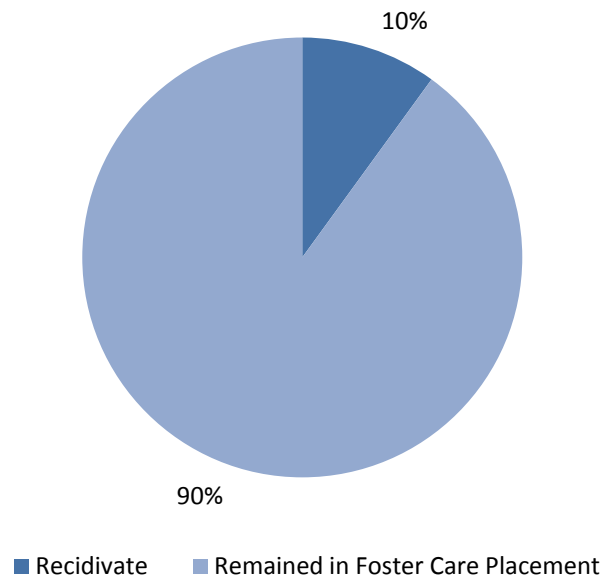


AFCARS, 2005 (N=1,274) and 2006 (N=1,124).

Recidivism

There were 1,082 children admitted to foster care in 2005. Figure 44 depicts that 90 percent (978) of those admitted, remained in their placement. Ten percent (104) foster care children re-entered foster care. Recidivism means that the child has left foster care and then returned during the year, one or more times. The 2006 data on this topic is currently incomplete as twelve months have not elapsed from the date of all of the foster care admissions from FFY 2006.

Figure 44. Twelve Month Recidivism for Foster Care Admitted During FFY 2005



AFCARS, 2005 (N=1,082).

Waiting Children

Sixty-two percent (220) of children who were in foster care in FFY 2005 remained in foster care following the relinquishment of parental rights of both parents. This percent dropped to 58 percent (198) in 2006. Even though these children are no longer living with their parents, there are several options available to them (i.e. adoption, independent living, emancipation, etc.). Table 17 represents the discharge reason for this population. The most common reason, as coded by the field worker was adoption (36 percent in 2005, 40 percent in 2006). Rare occurrences exist when the adoption process is not finalized or the process is disrupted. Generally, if the field worker enters the discharge reason as adoption then these occurrences are not reflected in the data.

Table 17. Status of Children with Parents Who Terminated Their Parental Rights

	2005	2006
The termination of parental rights is one of the legal proceedings in the adoption process, which will be addressed in the next section.		
Foster care	220	198
Adoption	127	139
Emancipate	3	3
Agency transfer	2	2
Death	0	1
Reunify	1	0
Total	353	343

AFCARS, 2005 (N=353) and 2006 (N=343).

Adoption

Introduction

The goal of Children and Family Services is to match a child with a permanent placement based on the needs of the child and family. The adoption process is the final step in the continuum of care, with the intent of achieving safety, permanency, and well-being for the child. There are several types of adoption that vary in process while adhering to the goal of permanency. The following section includes demographics of the adoptee population and adoption types with particular attention given to special needs children. An explanation of the adoption process, adoption typologies, and definitions of adoption terminology are included in the analysis using figures and tables. The data collected throughout this publication were obtained from the Comprehensive Child Welfare Information and Payment System (CCWIPS) and generated through the Adoption Automated Reporting System (AARS). The data encompasses FFYs 2005 (October 1, 2004-September 30, 2005) and 2006 (October 1, 2005-September 30, 2006).

Each waiting child varies in age, race, gender, special needs, and family background. Waiting children are defined as children in the public welfare system who cannot return to their birth homes due to the termination of parental rights. These children do not have a family identified who will adopt them. Generally speaking, the waiting child population is a sub-population of the foster care system. An adoptee, or an adopted person, is the population of interest in the following data on finalized agency adoptions.

The adoption process is composed of a series of steps that are more complex than the general descriptions listed in this bulletin. Prospective adoptive parents will generally:

- ☐ research different types of adoptions;
- ☐ choose an adoption agency;
- ☐ have an awareness of the fees associated with adoption;
- ☐ fill out an application;
- ☐ complete a home study;
- ☐ experience a waiting period; and
- ☐ complete legal procedures.

All North Dakota adoptions are facilitated through private adoption agencies. An agency adoption is an adoptive placement made by licensed organizations that screen prospective adoptive parents and supervise the placement of children in adoptive homes until the adoption is finalized. Private adoption agencies are generally privately funded, however they can receive public funding through contracts to provide adoption services for children in foster care in North Dakota. A “public agency adoption” is the adoption of children from the foster care system.

Finalized agency adoptions are the data of particular interest to determine the demographics of adoptee children. The finalization process is the final legal step in the adoption process and involves a court hearing, during which the judge orders that the adoptive parents become the child’s legal parent. Prior to this legal proceeding, there is a legal requirement that parental rights

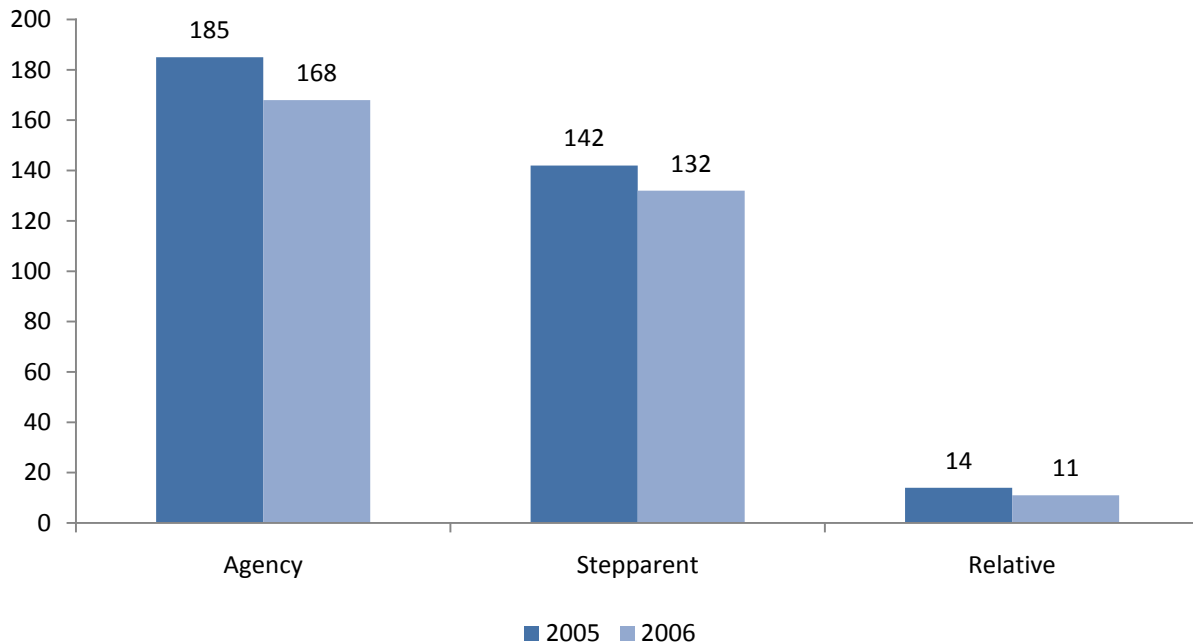
to the child be terminated through either a voluntary relinquishment by the parent(s) or an involuntary termination by the courts.

North Dakota Adoptions

How many adoptions were finalized in North Dakota in FFY 2005 and 2006? There were 341 children adopted in North Dakota in 2005 and 311 in 2006. Finalized agency adoptions, the focus of this section, accounted for 54 percent of all types of adoptions in both years (Figure 45).

Relative and stepparent adoptions are types of adoption that do not fall under the auspices of an agency adoption. The two types of relative adoptions are categorized based on whether or not an adoption agency is a party in the adoption process. For relative non-agency adoptions, the adoption process requires the legal procedures of relinquishment of parental rights and adoption finalization. At no time during the process is the child under the intermediary custody of the county.

Figure 45. Number of Children by Type of Adoption



CCWIPS, 2005 (N=341) and 2006 (N=311).

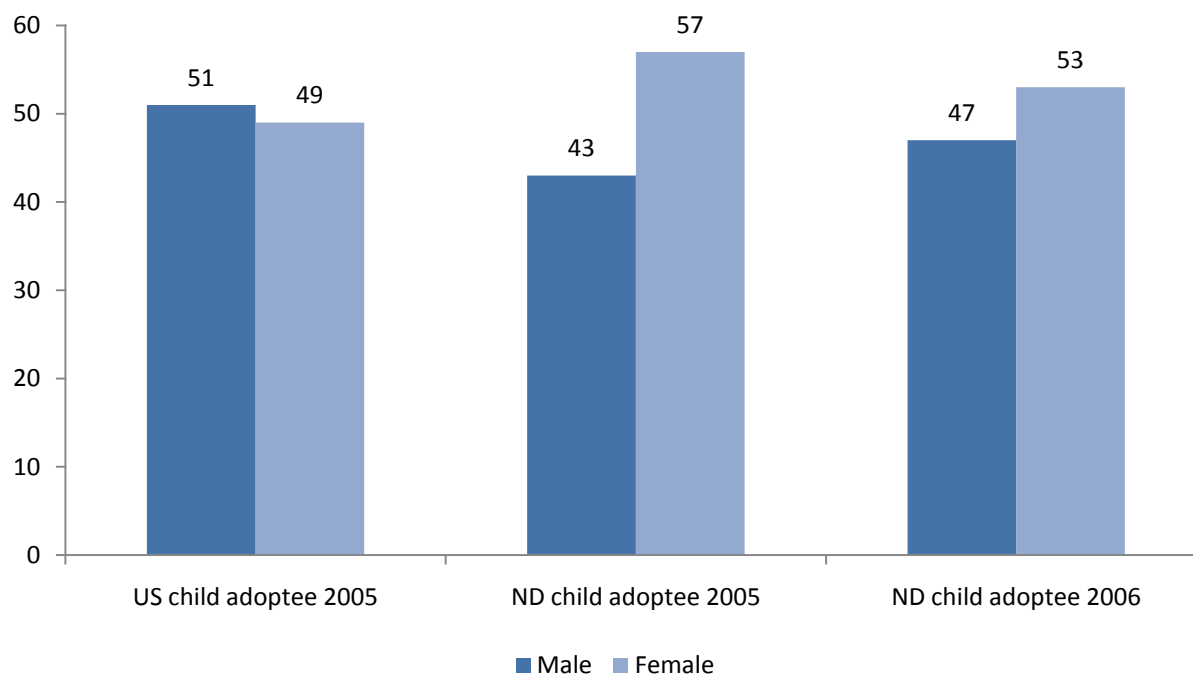
North Dakota Finalized Agency Adopted Children

Gender and Adoption

Are females or males more likely to be adopted? Figure 46 illustrates that the number of male adoptions remained constant (n=79). There was a slight decrease in numbers for finalized female adoptions during the same time period. In 2005, the United States general child adoptee population, there was relative equity between the males (51 percent) and females (49 percent). Males accounted for 51 percent of the North Dakota general child population, 55 percent of the foster care population and 47 percent of the adoptee population in FFY 2006. When comparing

gender across foster care and adoption programs, males are more likely than females to be in the foster care system awaiting placement but less likely than females to be adopted. Nationally, males are more likely than females to be in the foster care system (53 percent of the child population) and just as likely (51 percent of the national adopted population) to be adopted.

Figure 46. Percent of Finalized Agency Adoptions in North Dakota and United States by Gender



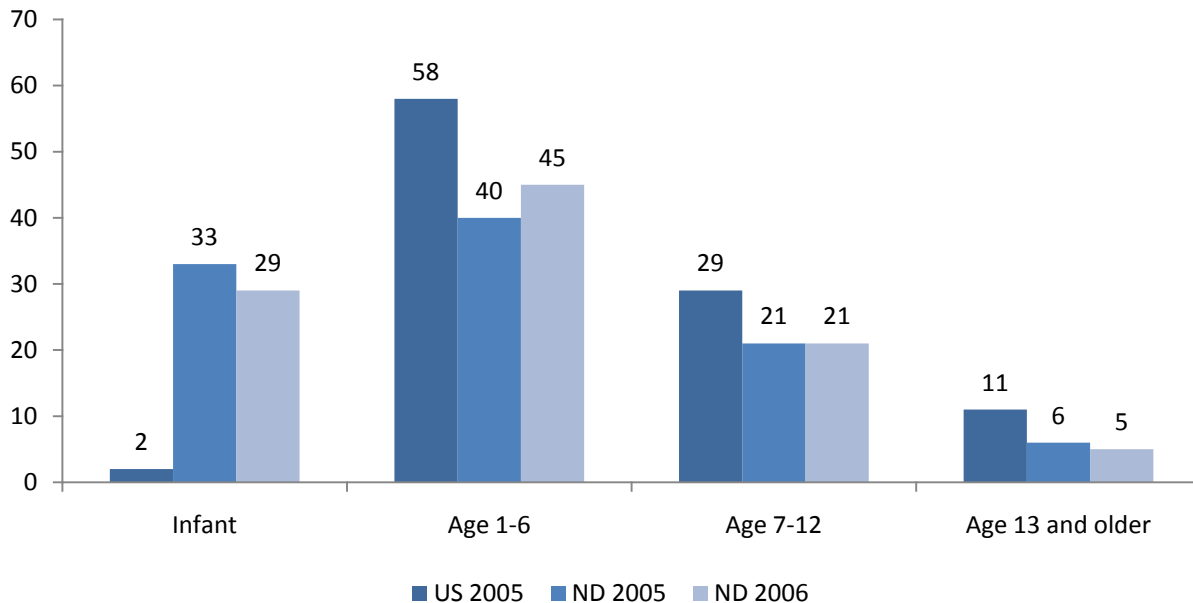
AARS, 2005 (N=185) and 2006 (N=168). AFCARS, 2005.

Age and Adoption

In North Dakota children under the age of six were more likely than their older counterparts to be legally adopted through state agencies (Figure 47). Nationally, infants constitute a small percent (2 percent in 2005) of adoptees while, in North Dakota, infants represent a sizable (33 percent in 2005, 29 percent in 2006) percent of the adoptee population. There was a small percent of young adult adoptees in 2005 and 2006.

How does the adoptee population compare to the foster care child population in North Dakota? Table 18 indicates that children from infancy to age six made up 29 percent of the foster care population in 2005 and 32 percent in 2006. In both years this population fell just shy of the 15-17 year olds who made up the largest percent (2005, 30 percent; 2006, 33 percent) of foster care children in North Dakota (Foster care: Figure 32 and Table 13). While the younger cohort can be considered a vulnerable population, so too can the older cohort who fall under the special needs criteria of age 7 and older.

Figure 47. Percent of Adopted Children in North Dakota and United States by Age Range



AARS, 2005(N=185) and 2006 (N=168). AFCARS, 2005.

Table 18. Percent of Foster Care and Adopted Children by Age Range

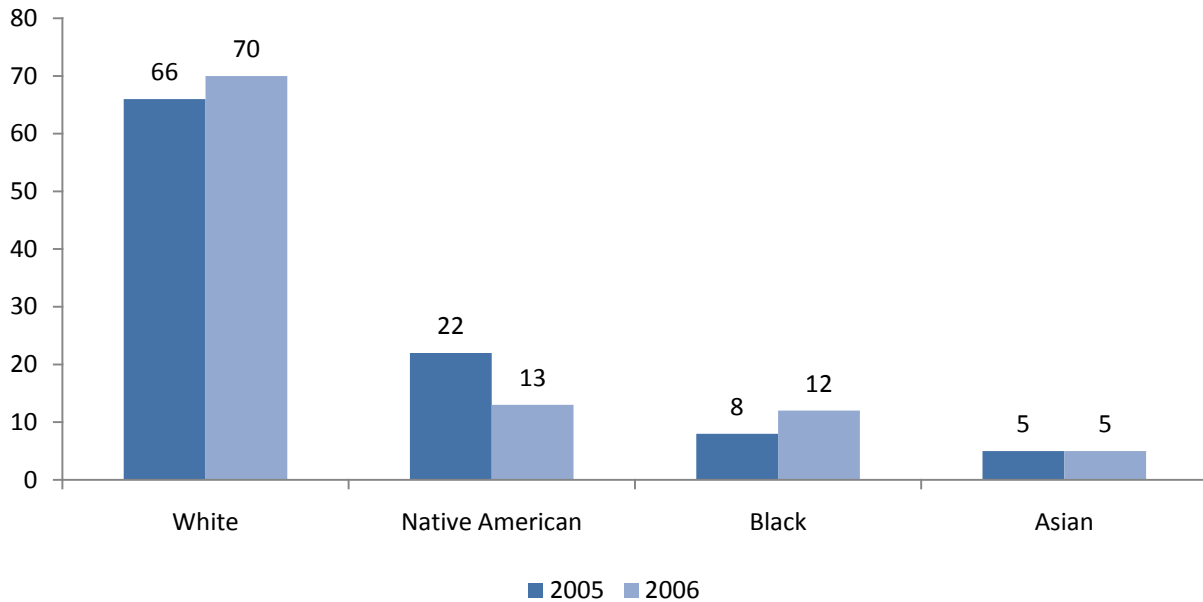
	2005		2006	
	Foster Care (%)	Adoption (%)	Foster Care (%)	Adoption (%)
Infant	0	33	3	29
Age 1-6	29	40	29	45
Age 7-12	20	21	20	21
Age 13 and older	51	6	48	5

AFCARS, 2005 and 2006. AARS 2005 and 2006.

Adoption Disparities by Race

Figure 48 shows the racial composition of children whose adoptions are finalized. In 2005 and 2006, white children were adopted more often than any other race in North Dakota.

Figure 48. Percent of North Dakota Adopted Children by Race



AARS, 2005 (N=185) and 2006 (N=168).

Table 19 further compares race with the percent of children in foster care and finalized adoptions. White children are similarly represented in both the foster care system and in finalized adoptions. The percent of Native American adoptions decreased almost in half from 2005 to 2006 while the foster care population of this group remained stable (Figure 34). In 2006, Black children account for 12 percent of adoptees yet only 3 percent children in foster care. Asian children also have a higher representation among the adoptee population (5 percent) than in the foster care population (2 percent) in 2006.

Table 19. Racial Composition of Children in Foster Care versus Finalized Adoptions in North Dakota by Percent

	2005		2006	
	Foster Care (%)	Adoption (%)	Foster Care (%)	Adoption (%)
White	65	66	63	70
Native American	27	22	26	13
Black	2	8	3	12
Asian	1	5	2	5
More than one race	5	--	6	--

AFCARS, 2005 and 2006. AARS, 2005 and 2006

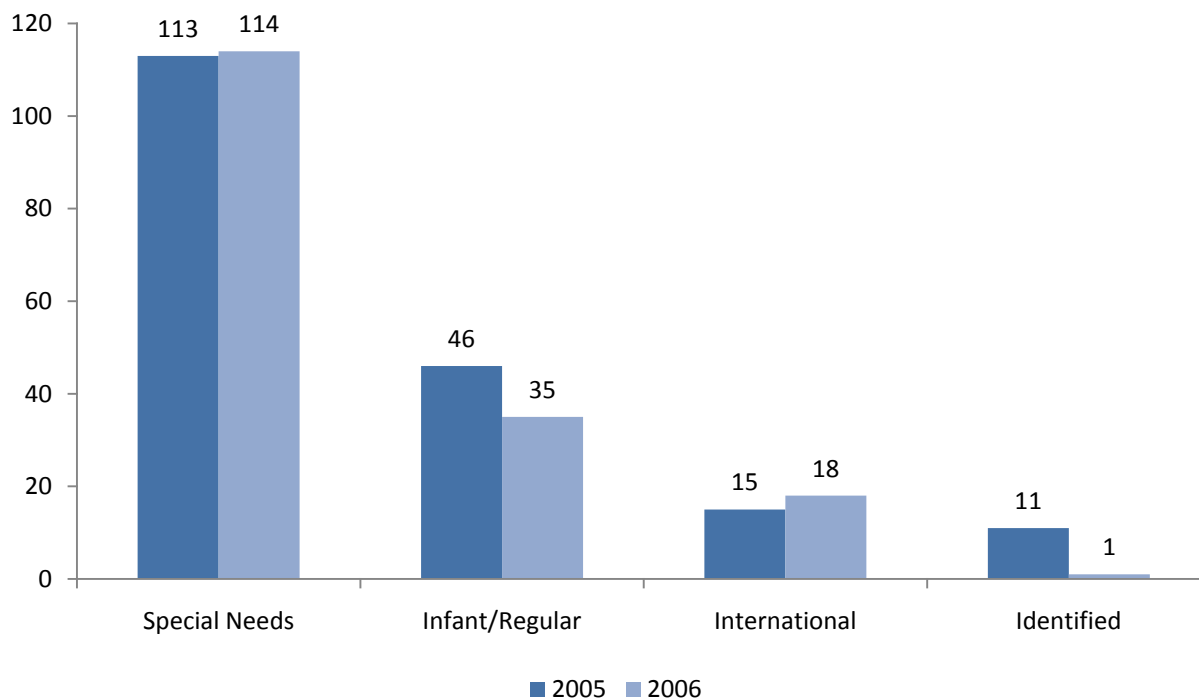
Finalized Agency Adoptions

Agency adoptions (Figure 49) are classified as special needs, infant/regular, international, or identified. The criteria for categorizing children as special needs include the following:

- ☐ the presence of a physical, emotional, or mental disability;
- ☐ the child is high risk for a future physical, emotional, or mental disability as diagnosed by a licensed physician;
- ☐ the waiting child as part of sibling group being placed together for adoption;
- ☐ the waiting child belongs to a minority race; or
- ☐ the waiting child is age seven or older.

An infant/regular adoption is when children are voluntarily placed through an adoption agency by their parent(s). In North Dakota, the majority of regular adoptions involve infants. International adoptions, referred to as foreign adoptions in previous bulletins, pertain to children residing in countries outside the United States. The legal procedures of the adoption typically occur in the child's birth country. Identified adoptions are direct adoptions where the parent(s) have pre-selected an adoptive family. Temporary custody is not granted to an agency in an identified adoption.

Figure 49. Number of Finalized Agency Adoptions by Type



AARS, 2005 (N=168) and 2006 (N=185).

Special Needs

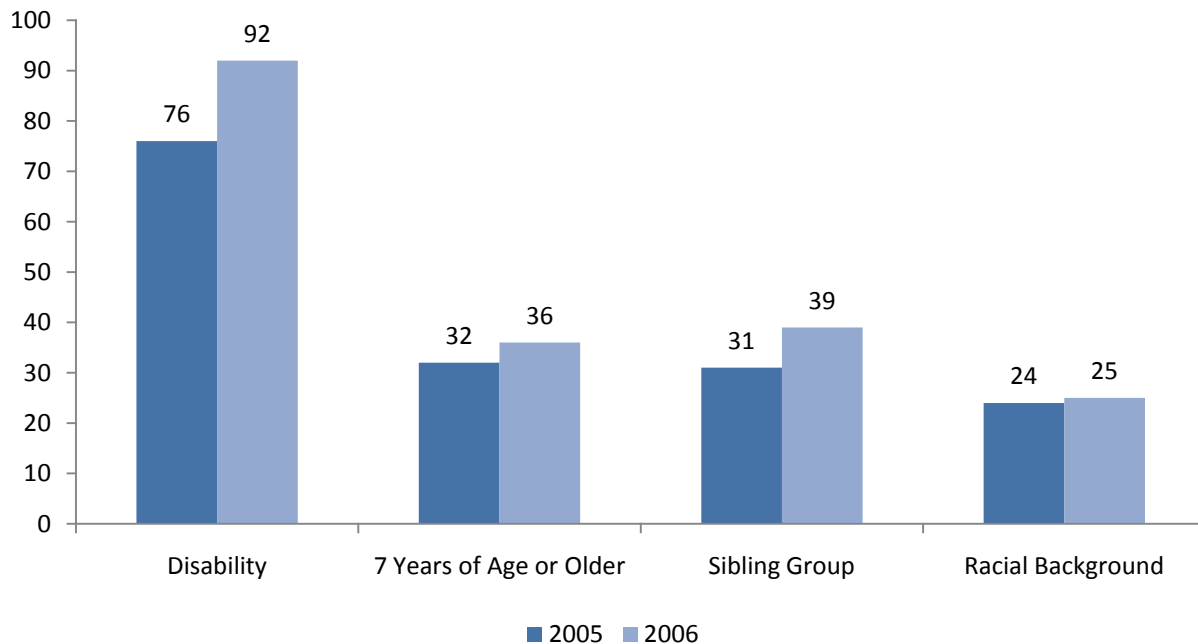
Figure 50 shows adoption by special needs type. The total special needs population (113 in 2005; 114 in 2006) does not equal the sum of the special needs categories in Figure 50 because children may be counted more than once (duplicated) if they meet one or more special needs criteria. For example, an adopted child may be counted three times if the child was 10 years old, was being placed with a younger sister as part of a sibling group, and had a learning disability.

In 2005 there were 113 children meeting 163 special needs criteria. In 2006 this number rose to 114 children meeting 192 special needs criteria. The most commonly reported special need is children with disabilities. The disability categories include emotional disturbance, mental retardation, physical disability, visual/hearing impaired, and other. The other category combines all other disabilities in with children who are high risk for a future mental, physical, or emotional disability as diagnosed by a physician. This is the most recent disability typology. An example of a child at high risk might be a child whose birth parent used alcohol or drugs while pregnant, putting the child at risk for disability in the future.

Adoption assistance is designed to provide adoptive families of any economic level needed social services and medical and financial support to care for children considered difficult to place. Adoption assistance can take three forms: a monthly payment (subsidy) to meet the special and ordinary needs of the child, Medical Assistance as a backup to the adoptive family's private health insurance, and reimbursement for non-recurring adoption expenses (up to \$2000/child).

Children face a difficult time separating from their parents. If children have siblings, it is critical to keep these siblings together. In 2005, there were 31 adopted children who were part of a sibling group. Thirty-six adopted children in 2006 qualified as special needs under the sibling criterion.

Figure 50. Number of Finalized Agency Adoptions by Special Needs Type

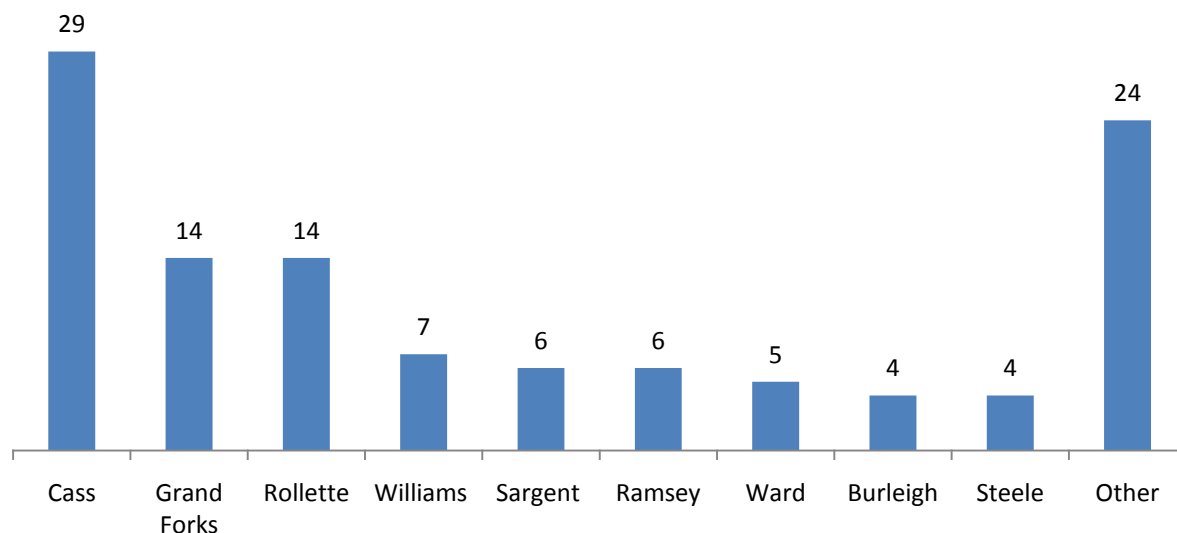


AARS, 2005 (N=163) and 2006 (N=192).

Special Needs by Administrative County

Which counties have the most special needs adoptions? Figures 51 and 52 differentiate the special needs adoptions by administrative county in FFYs 2005 and 2006. The urban area of Cass County had the largest number of finalized special needs adoptions for both years.

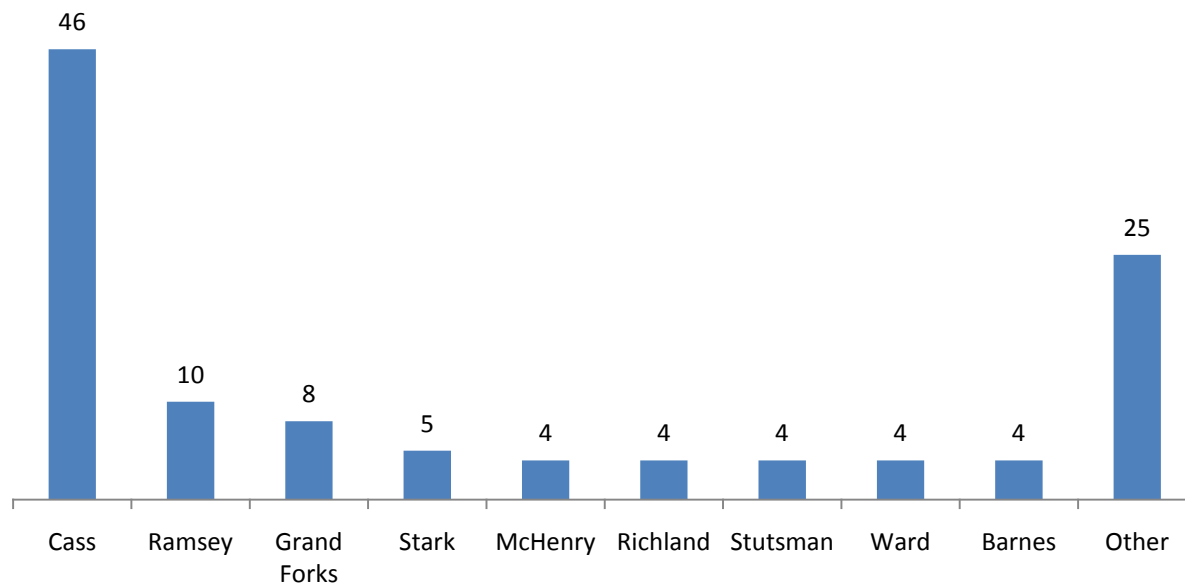
Figure 51. Number of Special Needs Adoptions by Administrative County, FFY 2005



AARS, 2005 (N=113)

Note: The 'other' category includes one to three adoptions in 15 counties (2005).

Figure 52. Number of Special Needs Adoptions by Administrative County, FFY 2006

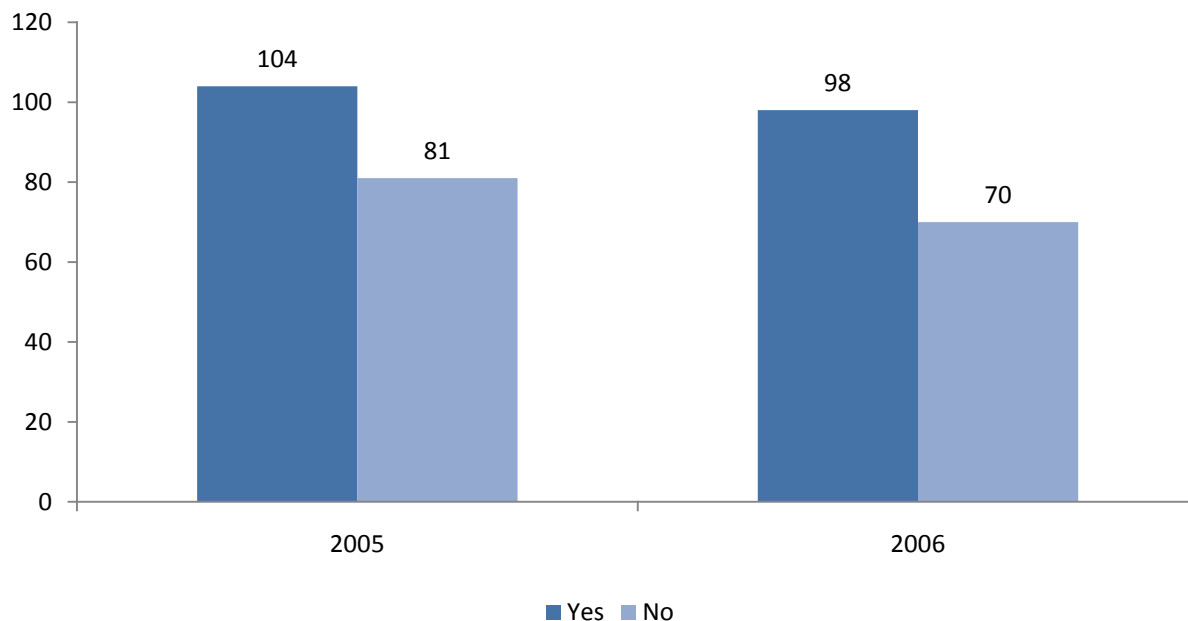


AARS, 2006 (N=114). Note: The 'other' category includes one to three adoptions in 11 counties (2006).

Adoption by Foster Parents

How many foster care families adopt their foster children? Foster care parents are more likely to adopt than not (Figure 53) Foster parent adoptions are encouraged because the child is already settled into their environment and has established a bond with the foster family.

Figure 53. Number of Adoptions by Foster Parents



CCWIPS, 2005 (N=185) and 2006 (N=168)

Note: Infant adoptions are included in these adoption numbers.

Adoption Placement Timeframes

Figure 54 illustrates the average monthly timeframes from the termination of parental rights through the finalized adoption for special needs adoptions. The figure is broken into two separate wait times: from termination of parental rights through placement and placement to finalized adoption.

In 2006, the average wait time from termination of parental rights to finalization was almost 14 months (about 6 months average decrease in wait time from 2003). The national wait time is 15.2 months (AFCARS, 2005). Recall that the termination of parental rights and the finalized adoption require an order from the court. The timeframe placement to finalization is shorter, with the average of three months in 2006. The ultimate goal is to decrease the total wait time for special needs adoptions.

Figure 54. Special Needs Adoption Timeframes, FFY 2002-2006 (in months)



AARS, 2002-2006.